

INSIDE

Your quality Australian weekly soccer paper for the new millennium

SOCER

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Glory's marriage made in Heaven

**Weekend
of agony
and
ecstasy**

**Special
Finals
issue**

All

FREE TICKET

Cut this coupon out and take to SFS this Friday for the big triple header starring Matildas v China, plus USA in an early game.

By Greg Blake

What started out as a blind date is set to culminate in a very public celebration of a city's passionate love affair with a footballing dynasty in the making. There was an undeniable chemistry from the first time a wide-eyed and curious Western Australian public glimpsed the flirtatious new face of the NSL less than four years ago, the day glamorous Perth Glory strolled down the catwalk for the first time.

The issues of date and venue finally settled last weekend, charismatic second-year coach, Brad Stange, will lead Perth down the aisle and into the 1999/2000 NSL Grand Final on Sunday week, where a guest-list numbering around 43,000 will roar its approval and formalise the emotional bond between a great team and a parochial and adoring public.

After last weekend only Wollongong City and Carlton remain alive in the race to potentially party-poop that super-sized Subiaco Oval celebration on June 11.

Only one of them gets to trek west for the biggest date on the domestic calendar, with those wonderful Wolves hosting white-hot Carlton this weekend to decide who gets the crack at Glory in the Subiaco showdown.

Carlton's league best season winning-streak was extended to six in succession last Sunday as the Victorians eliminated Sydney Olympic 2-1 in sudden death extra time to end a pulsating minor semi final.

Deserved of an audience far in excess of the pathetic Olympic Park turnout of just 2,552, the Carlton - Olympic clash provided the superior quality footy of the two games played last weekend; equal portions of intensity, skill and sheer artistry throughout and thoroughly engaging.

Steve Horvat's awkward-looking first goal in Carlton colors ended Olympic's season deep into extra time, yet so little was there between the two teams that an abrupt exit from the play-offs suddenly became an entirely inappropriate punishment for the vanquished.

Nothing will console a clearly heartbroken and shattered Olympic, finals footy once again underscoring her reputation as an unforgiving mistress.

"He likes to push forward when we're chasing the game and we have set-pieces," said coach Stuart Munro of Steve Horvat, the scorer of the winning golden goal.

"Steve likes to get involved in these things (set-pieces) and as long as we keep it tight at the back I don't mind extra players going up (for free-kicks). The only thing I instruct Steve to do is to make sure that if he's going forward that there's someone staying back for him."

"I thought we started the first period of extra-time stronger. We seemed to come alive again - I felt we were disappointing in the second-half of the game. In fact, we never really came alive until we scored the goal."

"We were pretty good then for 10-15 minutes. In the second-half ... we seemed to lose our shape a little bit."

Continued page three

NSL finals series

Australia's most authoritative coverage of the games played plus in-depth previews of this weekend.

Raul Blanco talks Olyroos

The Four Diegos ask the hard questions!
Plus Socceroos, Matildas, NYL

S-news

Inside Soccer's
Australian news,
stories
and goss

NSW CLUB TO GET ON NET FOR PREMIER LEAGUE

Clubs in the NSW summer league competition - to be called the NSW Premier League - due to start later this year are getting on the web. While Sutherland Sharks has had a presence for some time at www.sutherlandsoccer.com.au, other clubs are joining suit under a plan by the NSW Soccer Federation to ensure that their summer league clubs all have a web presence. To date, sites have been prepared by designer, Chris Beattie, for Bonnyrigg, Leichhardt and Central Coast. "As we gear up for the first season of the NSW Premier League in 2000-01, we think it's important to ensure that the clubs participating in that competition have a presence on the web to inform their supporters and the local community about the club and their games," said NSW's Marketing and Media Manager, Bonnie Mersiades. The NSW Federation already provides a comprehensive fixture and results service on their main web site at www.soccernsw.com.au, which includes the Super League competition as well as the other competitions run by the Federation. "Once all the basic elements are in place for the sites, we will be assisting the clubs who need it to maintain their site themselves. By the time the new league starts in November, we will have the ten clubs with their own web site and, hopefully, the skills to be able to update them regularly!" said Bonnie. "It also provides clubs with another option for revenue raising, as their sites will offer very targeted marketing opportunities for local

businesses." The addresses are www.bonnyrigg.soccernsw.com.au www.leichhardt-tigers.soccernsw.com.au and www.centralcoast.soccernsw.com.au

BIG NAMES IN CROWD

In amongst the masses on Saturday night at Subiaco Oval was one very interested spectator. The Hertha Berlin manager was in WA playing golf, and so while he was there he took the opportunity to have a look at three players: Ergic, Milicevic and Petkovic. Judging by their performances, they did their chances of playing in the Bundesliga no harm.

AMAGLUG-GLUG THROUGH

The Amaglug-Glug (South Africa's U/23s) beat the Kiwis 1-0 on Sunday to earn a berth at Sydney 2000.

PAY PER VIEW

You can see the USA women's side live this Friday night for free at the SFS (see front page cut out coupon). In the US they are so popular now that their upcoming European tour can be seen on pay-per-view in the US.

NEW LAW?

Young soccer players under the age of 18 will be banned from moving abroad if a decision taken by Uefa's executive committee today is accepted by Fifa, world soccer's governing body. The committee agreed to ask Fifa, which has ultimate control over transfers, to impose an international ban to stop young players being exploited or put at risk.

INSIDE SOCCER

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Wolves v Carlton

Preliminary Final preview by John Vrtanic

The Preliminary Final brings together the minor premiers Wollongong Wolves, renowned for their goalscoring talents, against a defence that has over the latter part of the season brutally dominated opposition strikers.

The game will see a number of intriguing battles; Simon Colosimo against Dino Mennillo, Matt Horsley and Andrew Packer, but it is the battle of the big, bad and mean defensive troika of David McPherson, Craig Deans (below) and Steve Horvat against the marauding strikers, Stuart Young and Saso Petrovski that will determine the outcome of this battle.

Carlton will go into the match mentally strong having come through three tough games - against Marconi in the elimination final and against Sydney Olympic in the minor semi final.

Carlton has the benefit of having beaten the Wolves in the last round of the season at Olympic Park (albeit with a largely understrength south coast side) and even though they are playing away on Sunday, Brandon Park is not a exactly a Subiaco Oval cauldron.

Carlton has peaked at the right end of the season and a number of its players are in the best form of the season. Most notably its two aspiring Olyroos, Simon Colosimo and Archie Thompson, who have been their form players of the last few weeks.

Colosimo himself would be surprised at how quickly he has regained his form after his long absence from the playing field (his return to the Socceroos for the Paraguay tournament ample reward for this inspirational youngster).

Although he is playing as a right wing-back he has been given a roving commission in attack, popping up in most unexpected of places. But he will have to be vigilant to the threats caused by the dangerous left side players possessed by the Wolves, in particular Dino Mennillo and Socceroo Scott Chipperfield.

Thompson, on the other hand, has been in tremendous form since his return to his favoured striking role after having played as a wing-back earlier in the sea-



son. He is keen to continue his form in an effort to make a late dash for a spot in the Olyroos squad after having been left out of the recent training camps.

The Wolves will be relying on its 'Captain Courageous', Matt Horsley, and Chipperfield to inspire them as they have most of the season.



Chipperfield (above) has had his best season but was outplayed by a determined Robbie Trajkovski on the weekend. Playing at home the Wolves are sure to place more emphasis on attack than they did against Perth and this will suit Chipperfield.

Carlton has an abundance of experience with Horvat, Andrew Marth, Lubo Lapsansky and John Markovski all part of previous finals.

Not to mention the experience of big Dave McPherson.

It will come down to the might and power of the Carlton big men - and the youthful exuberance of Colosimo, Packer and Thompson - against the raiding attackers of the Wolves. With home crowd support to spur them on the Wolves might just get away with it by the odd goal, but this will be tight.

Record against each other

Played: 6

Wolves wins: 2

Carlton wins: 4

Draws: 0

IS prediction:

Wolves win with Golden Goal.



Glory youth sends Perth into raptures

Continued from front page

Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina was looking for scapegoats after the game. "We didn't play as fluidly as we can - I think the conditions played a major part."

"The pitch didn't suit football today. There were a lot of good players from both teams out on the park who found it difficult to control the ball and to string together any number of passes."

"You can't play Carlton at their game - we wanted to play our game. (But) as soon as we arrived here yesterday we knew we had to play a different type of game."

"You cannot play Carlton at their game. We tried to be as competitive as we could and were hoping we may still be able to play our game. But obviously the conditions didn't allow us and Carlton were possibly - it's my opinion - better suited to the conditions and on the day deserved to win."

Regarding the surface, Horvat said, "The pitch was fine."

Munro added, "It wasn't even slippery by the looks of things. I was surprised at the amount of times the ball actually held up. When the ball was played over the top, I was expecting it to slip right through - but because there wasn't any rain on it for the last 3-4 hours it was fine."

No such distress out west though, as an all-time NSL record crowd of 42,760

'In the end it took the uncloistered enthusiasm of a mere youth to clear a path for Glory.'

packed Subiaco Oval for Perth's 2-0 'golden goal' win over Wollongong in the back half of the major semi last Saturday. Earning the right to host the grand final has swept up the locals in a near hysterical soccer frenzy.

"What a night ... this was our first ever soccer game ... we'll be back," said one soccer-mum, and kids, to our man at the ground, Dennis Gedling.

Bernd Stange said later it was one of the best nights of his footballing life. "I couldn't see any difference to European soccer," he said at the post-match.

The spotlight now falls on the coming weekend's all-or-nothing clash between Wollongong and Carlton, where the pressure is now firmly on Nick Theodorakopoulos' Wolves outfit.

Deserved of the luxury of taking a more substantial margin to WA in the first place, Wollongong was desperately

unlucky not to have ended the major semi completely long before Rob Trajkovski's harrowing penalty success inexorably turned the tide of the return game.

Looking awkward and nervous as a vast sea of humanity ooohed and aaahed as Glory's fortunes ebbed and flowed, Stange's team looked every bit as awestruck as the visitors.

In the end it took the uncloistered enthusiasm of a mere youth to clear a path for Glory, Ivan Ergic's unforgettable



The dynamic teenage duo of Ivan Ergic and Ljubo Milicevic (behind). These two AIS mates showed they can handle the big stage: now for the Grand Final. Pic by Aidan Ormond.

cameo helping his teammates to finally shrug off the cloying self doubt which had apparently settled in.

As for the Wolves, having erased any lingering doubts about their ability to actually play in this company they now return home to shoulder the burden of the lofty expectations held by their own adoring fans.

Wollongong's free-wheeling 1999/2000 team will inevitably be deemed - however unfairly - as having failed should the hard-earned double chance not translate into at least a grand final date.

Facing the demons of a day in the Subiaco cauldron and living to tell the tale will do a Wollongong team bereft of significant finals experience the world of good.

But an even sterner test of nerves might well come against a Carlton team which is emotionally freed up by comparison; this is now bonus territory for teams coming out of the elimination rounds.

The dead track slog against Olympic will have taken a physical and emotional toll on Carlton, yet the eventual gritty victory has further bolstered their sense of self-confidence and fueled a growing belief that nothing is impossible for this team in its current mood.

Carlton's momentum should be causing furrowed brows within the Wollongong camp, and possibly Perth's as well.

The six consecutive wins and a 9-1-1 return from their last 11 starts is impressive enough, but the mere figures don't reveal that Carlton that has claimed minor premiers, Perth, runner-up, Wollongong, as well as finalists Olympic (twice) and Marconi (twice) as victims during the killing spree.

Just as Wollongong can boast a multi-pronged offence which is overdue a substantial return, Carlton's depth of talent is a bit scary.

Olympic's Paul Kohler turned Simon Colosimo into a bystander last weekend and skipper Andrew Marth looked lost against Marconi the previous week, yet Carlton's bandwagon has been rolling along nicely often despite no significant

contributions from players perceived as their match-winners.

Predictably, Wollongong's record-setting goalscoring pace has been reduced to a mere trickle in the rarified finals air and it's not going to get any easier for any configuration of the Chipperfield, Young, Masi, Petrovski and Menillo gun slinging posse offered up by Theodorakopoulos (below) this weekend.

The current theory that Carlton lacks pace at the back has about a much relevance as Craig Deans' hairstyle in the context of popular culture.

- Put in lay terms, Carlton's stingy recent record doesn't so much hint at as loudly trumpet the message that this team knows how to play tight-arse football.

To squeeze even one goal from a Carlton team which has kept five of its last seven opponents scoreless and conceded just two goals in the past seven games is clearly a tough ask.

Yet Carlton is prone to moments of slapstick - witness the late triple by South Melbourne at Olympic Park in round 30 or the gift they allowed Ante Juric last Sunday.

Given Wollongong's propensity for keeping the game in their front half and in staying in their opponent's face, a proliferation of chances at least offers the home side a weight of numbers opportunity to catch Carlton during one of those rare moments.

Historically the preliminary final is a thrill ride played with Kamikaze commitment, the penultimate game of the campaign almost inevitably providing more goals and incidents than conceded in the guarded early stages of the play-offs or the grand final still to come.

The first preliminary final of the new millennium suggests more of the same as the most prolific offence in NSL history matches up against the meanest defence going around in 1999/2000.

Wollongong boasts a host of potential goalscorers and creates such a volume of chances that the law of averages becomes an extra goalscoring ally; Carlton has as many options but is content to trade away a lesser number opportunities in favor of superior quality.

Should both sides play to strengths and produce at or near best expect this one to go off.

Socceroo squad for Paraguay tour

NAME	POSITION	CLUB
BOLTON Clint	Goalkeeper	Brisbane Strikers (Australia)
BOSNICH Mark	Goalkeeper	Manchester United (England)
KALAC Zeljko	Goalkeeper	Roda JC (Holland)
BLATTSIS Con	Defender	South Melbourne (Australia)
CASSERLY Luke	Defender	AIK Solna (Sweden)
HORVAT Steve	Defender	Carlton (Australia)
LAYBUTT Stephen	Defender	Parramatta Power (Australia)
LAZARIDIS Stan	Defender	Birmingham City (England)
MURPHY Shaun	Defender	Sheffield United (England)
MUSCAT Kevin	Defender	Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
POPOVIC Tony	Defender	Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan)
TIATTO Danny	Defender	Manchester City (England)
CORICA Steve	Midfielder	Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan)
EMERTON Brett	Midfielder	Sydney Olympic (Australia)
FOSTER Craig	Midfielder	Crystal Palace (England)
COLOSIMO Simon	Midfielder	Carlton (Australia)
MENDEZ Gabriel	Midfielder	Sydney Olympic (Australia)
OKON Paul	Midfielder	Fiorentina (Italy)
VEART Carl	Midfielder	Adelaide City (Australia)
VIDMAR Aurelio	Midfielder	Adelaide City (Australia)
AGOSTINO Paul	Striker	1860 Munich (Germany)
CARDOZO Pablo	Striker	Sydney Olympic (Australia)
CHIPPERFIELD Scott	Striker	Wollongong Wolves (Australia)
VIDUKA Mark	Striker	Celtic (Scotland)
ZANE Clayton	Striker	Molde (Norway)
ZDRILIC David	Striker	SSV Ulm (Germany)

The three matches between Australia and Paraguay, ranked 17 in the world, are scheduled as follows:

Venue:	Sydney - Football Stadium	Kickoff:	7.30pm
Date:	Friday June 9		
Venue:	Brisbane - The Gabba		
Date:	Monday June 12	Kickoff:	3.00pm
Venue:	Melbourne - Colonial Stadium		
Date:	Thursday June 15	Kickoff:	7.30pm



incidents than conceded in the guarded early stages of the play-offs or the grand final still to come.

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Should both sides play to strengths and produce at or near best expect this one to go off.



GREG BLAKE
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Probably half a dozen of the NSL's perennial strugglers would likely happily fill their shoes, but the reality for former competition heavyweights Adelaide City and Marconi is that both clubs are going nowhere fast.

With a combined total of seven national championships between them, both clubs still manage to trade on past reputations.

Marconi went to the finals for a record 14th time this season and Adelaide City's now trademark late run was enough to continue the club's record-breaking 11 successive play-off appearances.

However the aura of success is just an illusion these days.

The truth is that Marconi hasn't won a national title since 1993 and has done nothing of note since losing the 1996 grand final against the Knights.

Adelaide City hasn't played in a grand final since 1995 and slumped from champions in 1994, to second, third and fourth in consecutive post-season standings before ending the past three campaigns out of business in the elimination final.

Both teams were outclassed - humbled, actually - in their respective elimination rounds this time around and were merely making up the numbers.

With Marconi still able to compete aggressively in the transfer market coach, Eddie Krnacevic, should be in a position to follow up on his commitment to turning over his playing list.

It's time.

A couple of mates in Adelaide were overjoyed that I wrote City's obituary for 2000 a few weeks prematurely, but despite getting some great value from a couple of young newcomers this season, it's hard to see where the Croweaters go from here.

Five of Adelaide's mainstays will start next season as thirty-somethings, Mori is no certainty to stay and with the club bereft of the lure of the lucre it might mean rebuilding from near scratch.

If not sooner, certainly before too long.

They'd be blowing up party balloons and cracking open a Moet just for being there in places like Newcastle, Gippsland or Brisbane.

But for superclubs like Marconi and Adelaide City merely making up the numbers is as sad and futile as two bald guys fighting over a comb.

Both clubs have got some tough decisions to make over the next few months.

Damian Mori a finals choker? It's probably a tough call to single out a bloke who's career is already in hall of fame and history book territory, but it's not the first time the suggestion has been whispered around the traps.

While there is hardly an NSL goalscorer record 'Frogga' doesn't own, his numbers in the games that count don't look too flash.

Despite finishing each of his last five full NSL seasons as the Zebs' top goalscorer and is just a tick off a goal per every other of his 299 regular season games, Mori has hit the target just once in his last 12 finals, between 1994/95 and 1999/2000.

Mori bagged three in the series when Adelaide last won the national title in 1993/94, including a sizzler which settled

the grand final against the Melbourne Knights, but hasn't been a factor since his penalty provided the only goal of the game in the 94/95 Major Semi Final 1st Leg win over the same team.

One of his most recent on-field opponents believes several factors have combined to limit Mori's output in the big games.

"Mori has been their most dangerous goalscorer for years and he is always the first Adelaide player we target to try and shut down when we play them, so the pressure is on him from the start," he explained.

"And usually in finals the games are much tighter, with opportunities limited anyway."

"I think just the fact that Adelaide City has struggled in the semi-finals in recent years hasn't helped him either."

"Maybe they rely on him too much."

While Mori pulled up one game short of his 300 NSL game milestone thanks to Adelaide City's capitulation in the eliminator against Sydney Olympic, that opening round finals defeat also cost his coach, Zoran Matic, some personal history of his own:

On Adelaide's exit from the series

camp went into this one still steaming from the ears at their untimely exit from the finals series at the hands of the Zebs just 12 months previously.

With a much-disputed, last-gasp winner in the very last game of the 98/99 campaign Adelaide City edged Olympic 1-0, exchanging seventh place on the ladder for a place in the top six at Olympic's expense.

Until this season City have made something of a habit of ending Olympic's finals campaigns, having scorched them in the '86 grand final and in the 91/92 and 95/96 finals series, as well as last season's final round thriller.

The last 12 months was worth the wait for most of the current Olympic squad, with their 6-2 aggregate pummeling of the South Australians providing ample proof that payback is indeed a bitch.

An observation bound to aggravate and annoy those of the 'eey, by gum' persuasion, especially those ex-pats who insist on denigrating the NSL at every turn despite rarely actually sampling the local product.

But it must be said that I've not met an impartial observer who didn't think the recent FA Cup Final - thankfully won by Chelsea over Aston Villa, thus avoiding any extra time - wasn't as boring as bat shit.

Yes, yes, great atmosphere and rah, rah, rah.

But I'd sooner chew aluminium foil than sit through that monumentally tedious affair ever again.

No arguments about the gulf in standards between the two competitions, but in terms of decent watchable games of footy, our NSL stacks up very nicely, thanks very much.

Possibly the least edifying and inconsequential statistical anomaly of the season just ended, but one e-mailer by the name of Stephan picked up on it and suggested I share his gem with the world.

Stephan pointed out that last weekend's finals match-ups - Perth Glory versus Wollongong City and Carlton versus Sydney Olympic - were duplicated not once, but twice this season in tandem.

Perth played the Wolves and Carlton met Olympic on the same weekends in both round 19 and round 33.

To add to the eery coincidence - woohoooh, spooky isn't it? - the other two 1999/2000 finalists, Marconi and Adelaide City, also played each other in rounds 19 and 33.

Stephan posed the questions; has this ever happened before that the eventual top six clubs all played each other in the same round and what are the odds of a repeat?

And I might add this poser, how many people actually give a stuff? Over to you NSL stats guru, Andrew Howe.

With the NSL only a tick away from celebrating the commencement of its 25th season you've got to hope that the governing body has given some consideration to how best commemorate the milestone.

As the first Aussie sport to go truly national in 1977 we've plenty to be proud of, the NSL beating the other footy codes by years and forging a path for the likes of the NBL, who made a huge fuss of 20



English FA Cup Final: boring as bat shit!

years of the national basketball comp not long back.

I understand that because a variety of television broadcasters have held primary rights to the NSL over the years that it would be darn near impossible and not cost effective to produce a definitive video history of the league.

But I believe a thoroughly researched, professionally produced and authoritative historical publication should be considered, sanctioned and financed by Soccer Australia as an immediate priority.

Whilst there have been plenty of well-intentioned efforts cobbled together by passionate supporters of the local game over the years, it would be good form to see the governing body take the lead in documenting what is, after all, its own part in creating Australian sporting history.

Unless you're a hard-core devotee there are precious few accessible records of NSL history available.

Many of the game's stars have simply vanished from the scene and even some venues, like now defunct Footscray JUST's storied Schintler Reserve - the entire area not so long back flattened and replaced by giant warehouses - no longer exist.

To put some perspective on just how quickly time slides away, only five players to have featured in championship-winning teams during the 1980's are still going around in the NSL.

Getting some likely priceless anecdotal pieces from Robbie Slater (St George, 1983), Mehmed Durakovic (Brunswick Juventus, 1985), Alex Tobin (Adelaide City, 1986), Fred DeJong (Marconi, 1988) and Bobby Catlin (Marconi 1988 and 1989) would be a terrific starting point.



Bob Catlin: ideal for any NSL retrospective!

Matic stood just one game shy of becoming only the second man in NSL history - behind the legendary Frank Arok - to coach 400 NSL games.

Matic also finished 1999/2000 with 177 career coaching victories; just one short of beating the 177 win mark, which is also held by Arok.

Interesting to watch how things unfold at Hindmarsh during the off-season too.

Will Mori heed the call of the wild and willing west?

And with Zeeland perhaps about equally divided between the pro-Matic devotees and those who would gleefully roast him on a backyard spit, does the coaching legend coach on?

You reckon there wasn't a bit of emotion in Olympic's slaughter of Adelaide City in the dual-legged elimination final, or what?

With some justification the Olympic

might have amounted to about double the club's regular season average, but there is still a huge cringe factor to Carlton's opening home final crowd (read gathering) of a paltry 3,236 for the second leg eliminator against Marconi.

Even the Olympic game on Sunday wasn't much better.

A couple of hundred less than the same club drew in a 1997/98 finals match-up at the same venue against the same opponent, the more recent effort was the worst NSL finals attendance since the 1992/93 season.

Only the die-hards turned out the back half of an already dead dual-legged elimination final between Parramatta Eagles and Wollongong that season, with the 1994 fans through the gates for that game the lowest attendance in NSL finals history.

Just not good enough.

Robertson for Glory?

By Brett Kluczniak

Former Glasgow Rangers and Gippsland Falcons player Sandy Robertson is currently in Perth where he's visiting family and holding talks with a couple of State League clubs concerning his future.

The midfielder (right) is also being courted by an un-specified NSL side but he's very guarded on this option, confirming only that he's involved in discussions with one club but answering more probing questions with "I can't comment on that at the moment."

With over 10 years experience in Britain with Glasgow Rangers, Coventry City and Dundee United, the 29-year old is impressed with the quality of play he's seen in Perth. "The standard of the league is quite good and obviously I think I could go out there and do quite well at this standard."

Robertson feels he has a good chance of picking up a contract in Perth which is where he hopes to continue his career after a spell with Gippsland Falcons. "Hopefully it (his career) lies here in Perth ... that's what I'm here for anyway."

His father, Malcolm Robertson was a professional player in the UK during the 1970s and 1980's and the family came to Perth in 1980 when Malcolm had a guest spell.

Meanwhile, there were a couple of unsettling distractions at Perth Glory last week as they prepared for the Major Semi-Final second leg against Wollongong Wolves.

Jason Petkovic was rumoured to have attracted the interest of Croatian champion Dinamo Zagreb but Glory acted swiftly to deny that an approach had been made.



The Herald newspaper in Zagreb backs the story that a move is imminent, stating that Dinamo have viewed video tapes of Petkovic and are keen to sign him. This has been backed by sources in Perth that claim Glory and Dinamo are close to agreeing to a deal which will see Petkovic stay in Perth until the end of the season after which time he will continue his career in Europe.

Petkovic left Adelaide City at the end of last season after six years with the club and trialled with Southampton and Glasgow Rangers before linking up with Glory in November 1999.

The one-time Socceroo keeper has made no secret that he still harbours the desire to play overseas, "It's always been an ambition of mine to play my trade overseas and I've never hidden that intention. Hopefully I can do it one day."

The following day Jonathan Cook, in an exclusive for *The West Australian* newspaper, revealed that Glory midfielder Troy Halpin had been given an ultimatum by the club - either sign a new contract that day or look for another club at the completion of the finals.

Glory initially offered Halpin a contract extension in March but the club did not follow it up by entering into formal discussions with the 26-year old.

After suffering a medial ligament injury mid-April, Halpin put his future to the back of his mind in an effort to recover. "I haven't been concentrating on anything other than getting back and playing for Perth Glory."

The matter has further been complicated by the fact that Halpin has parted from his International Management Group representative.

What do we have to do says Lyford

By Greg Blake

Carlton's GM, Jerome Lyford, has even just about conceded that trying to pitch either his club or the NSL to UK ex-pats in Melbourne is a dreadful waste of time.

Inexplicably so as well, given the relative success of Northern Spirit in Sydney and Perth Glory's effort in turning long-dormant WA fans into the most envied NSL supporter group in competition history.

Carlton and its 'Brit-pack' trio of Dave McPherson, Stuart Slater and Mike Conroy did everything humanly possible - both on and off the paddock - this season to pitch the product to and motivate the huge soccer-loving British expat population in Melbourne into giving the local domestic comp a fair go.

"I honestly don't know what we have to do," conceded a perplexed Lyford recently.

Long regarded as a club seriously unwilling to venture too far from its historically Croatian support base, the Melbourne Knights tried desperately to cash in on the Mark Viduka/Glasgow Celtic connection this season, adopting the green and white hoops as the club's away strip and inviting in members of Melbourne's Celtic Supporters Club to home games.



Despite the arrival of British pros McPherson, Slater (above) and Conroy the fans have not turned up in the expected numbers

The effort looked promising but died a natural death before season's end.

Why the same mad-keen punters who pack the pubs in the wee small hours to catch a glimpse of football stars thousands of kilometres away can't be lured to an NSL game has without doubt been one of the most vexing questions faced by soccer in Victoria since the NSL began.

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We're playing to win

Strongest Matildas line-up to be named for Pacific Cup

recovering from injury but is on track for the Olympics.

Ian Murray is a former Scottish junior rep who played for Sydney City, Canberra Deakin and Australia's indoor side. He has been coaching since 1994, including being head coach of ACT Academy of Sport.

He says that the sides he will put out, in consultation with Tansey, will be the strongest possible at all times. "We want the best eleven to work together now. There will be minimal changes ... the nucleus of the side will stay together. And because this tournament is five games over a short period we want to see who can back up because that's what the Olympics will be like. We want to see now who can stand up and be counted."

Right now the squad has a number of positions up for grabs with keeper Leane Trimboli strongly pushing the more experienced Tracey Wheeler. Having said that defenders Diane Alagich, Anissa Tann-Darby and Cheryl Salisbury look certainties, with inspirational captain Alison Forman in the general's role in the centre of midfield.

There is also a battle royale for a left midfield spot between the youth of Heather Garriock - who is from Campbelltown, one of this Cup's venues - and 29-year-old former player of the year Sharon Black. Black's move back from a striking role to midfield has impressed the Matildas management.

"We'll start with a 4-4-2, using two wide overlapping defenders," says Murray, "with one midfielder sitting in front

of the two central defenders acting as a front sweeper. The other three midfielders will sit in a triangular formation with two tucking in the inside channels giving the wide defenders room to move forward."

Ian Murray anticipates the Chinese will play their traditional five across the middle of the park. "What we want is players to think on their feet and adjust to changing circumstances on the park.

"Normally the Chinese will look to spray balls wide from the midfield, but if they decide to go more central we need players who can adjust quickly."

"We are the underdogs for the China game, they are ranked two in the world and we are ranked 11, but football is a funny game ... if there is one team they are not overawed by, it's China," he says.

This point is reiterated by captain Alison Forman, who said recently the side enjoys playing against China.

As for the danger players Sun Wen of China and Mia Hamm of the USA, Murray does not believe in assigning a marker on them. "We want to play our own game ... we are fitter and stronger than we've ever been and we want them to worry about us."

Matildas squad for Pacific Cup is:

Keepers: Tracey Wheeler, Leane Trimboli

Defenders: Diane Alagich, Kate McShea, Cheryl Salisbury (pictured above), Bridget Star, Anissa Tann-Darby

Midfielders: Sharon Black, Bryony Duus, Alison Forman (capt.), Heather



Garriock, P.C. Hepperlin, Sacha Wainwright, Amy Wilson.

Strikers: Lisa Casagrande, Alicia Ferguson, Sunni Hughes, Kelly Golebiowski

Possible starting line-up:

Trimboli,
Tann-Darby,
Salisbury,
Alagich,
Starr,
Forman,
Black,
Duus,
Wilson,
Ferguson,
Casagrande.



Coach: Ian Murray
(standing in for Chris Tansey, above)

*The Matildas will play in the national U/15 youth championships this winter.

By Aidan Ormond

Seventeen year old Queensland defender Kate McShea is the new face in Chris Tansey's 18-player Matildas squad for the Pacific Cup starting tomorrow night in Canberra.

This tournament - which then moves to Campbelltown, Sydney and Newcastle - will be the last chance for players to impress on the international arena ahead of next month's naming of the Olympic squad.

For the Pacific Cup the Matildas will be coached by assistant Ian Murray. Coach Chris Tansey flew back to England last week to attend the funeral of his mother. Tomorrow night the Australian players will have a minute's silence to pay their respects.

Another absentee for Australia will be star striker Julie Murray, who is still

Pacific Cup Itinerary

ROUND ONE - CANBERRA

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2000

AIS Athletics Arena

2.00 pm Canada v New Zealand

Bruce Stadium

5.00 pm USA v China

7.30 pm Australia v Japan

ROUND TWO - SYDNEY

FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2000

Sydney Football Stadium

3.00 pm Japan v New Zealand

5.30 pm USA v Canada

8.00 pm Australia v China

ROUND THREE - CAMPBELLTOWN

SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2000

Campbelltown Sports Stadium, Sydney

12.00 pm Japan v China

2.30 pm USA v New Zealand

5.00 pm Australia v Canada

ROUND FOUR - NEWCASTLE

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2000

Hunter Athletics Centre, Newcastle

3.00 pm Australia v New Zealand

THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2000

Breakers Stadium

3.30 pm China v Canada

6.00 pm USA v Japan

ROUND FIVE - NEWCASTLE

SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2000

Hunter Athletics Centre, Newcastle

12.00 pm Canada v Japan

2.30 pm China v New Zealand

SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2000

Breakers Stadium

2.30 pm Australia v USA

Big game match-ups



Matildas stand-in coach Ian Murray is a big fan of Diane Alagich (left). He rates her as the best player to handle Chinese superstar Sun Wen (right). China's gun striker likes to drift across opposition defences, snuffing out chances and using her pace to run onto through balls. Murray says we won't be putting a marker on her, but if there is one defender who can handle her it's the tough 21-year-old Aussie who will be keen to avenge our 4-1 loss to the Chinese at the World Cup last year.



Australia



USA



China



For years Lisa Casagrande (left) has shown the potential to be one of our best and most effective offensive players. With the injury to Julie Murray the Lismore-raised striker has the opportunity to step up and really show what she can do. Although it is unclear which strikeline Australia will start with, a Casagrande/Ferguson or Casagrande/Hughes combination would work well. Casagrande has spent some time in the USA and at just 22 is one of the more experienced players the Matildas can choose, having won 56 caps. Standing in her way for USA is likely to be Brandi Chastain, 32, (right). With 114 caps the Californian is a most respected defender.



World powers in Australia for Pacific Cup

By Arlo White

Lynd, Lynn the city of sin, you never come out the way you went in" is what they told us. Now don't worry folks, these aren't the sordid memoirs of a dirty old man on a Bangkok leisure break, but the tale of my first hand baptism into the world of women's soccer.

It was the summer of 1996, and the opportunity to grab onto the coat tails of the American dream and coach with Major League Soccer camps was an experience I was thoroughly enjoying.

Now, I coached some talented kids that summer but nothing I saw came remotely close to the five 13-year-old girls I have under my tutorage in that inner city Boston town.

They had skill and pace, their awareness was first class and the movement off the ball was a wonder to behold, but when they approached me at the end of the week with a challenge to the lads in the group I almost choked on my whistle.

I admired their confidence almost as much as their obvious talent, but what they were suggesting was five against eleven, girls against boys.

Ludicrous I told them.

After relentless pleading from the enthusiastic young lasses, and me nervously considering legal advice for a possibly resulting court case, I relented and allowed this ugly mis-match to commence with the parting words "I'll stop it when you're seven down."

Well what did I know. Five minutes into the game, this amazingly skilful



World Cup Final '99. Mia Hamm battles with Jie Bai for possession. China and the USA have named strong squads for the Pacific Cup.

tion. As the undisputed number one Soccer nation in the Women's game, their ultra experienced squad will arrive with a phenomenal total of 1,257 caps between them - and that's without Olympic certainties Briana Scurry, Michelle Akers and co-captain Carla Overbeck, who amongst themselves boast 300 plus appearances.

The undoubted jewel in their crown though is the wonderful Mia Hamm. To get an idea of what I'm harping on about, just check the record. In her 191 US run outs to date, the prolific 27-year-old has hammered (no pun intended) in 118 goals, and acquired superstar status along the way.

Well, what would you expect? With a ballet dancer for a mother and a top gun fighter pilot for a father there was hardly a drought at the gene pool she visited.

The States girls have dominated the international scene since the inception of competitions in the early 90's. After victory in the inaugural Women's World Cup of 1991, they added a third place finish in 1995.

Olympic Gold soon followed in Atlanta in 1996, but their greatest achievement came last year.

Having battled through to the World Cup final on home turf, a record crowd of 90,185 went delirious in the Pasadena Rose Bowl when Brandi Chastain slotted the fifth penalty of a tense shoot out against arch rivals China.

Talk about a breakthrough, the entire squad were suddenly household names.

But every bride needs a brides-

maid, and for the owners of that frustrating tag, read China.

Led by inspirational forward Sun Wen, the Chinese have narrowly succumbed to US dominance in both the '96 Olympic Final and that unforgettable Rose Bowl afternoon last year, but how close it was.

Had Kristine Lilly not cleared Fan Yunjie's blockbuster header off the line in golden goal extra time, they would be arriving as champions of the World. Destiny, it appeared, was against them that day, but with seven players selected in the 16 strong World Cup all-star team - USA only provided five - their quality isn't in doubt, and their free flowing attacking style will be a joy to watch.

But don't expect Japan, Canada and New Zealand to simply make up the numbers. The Kiwis have an impressive record against the Matildas and regional pride will be at stake for all three teams against their larger more powerful neighbours.

A fantastic two weeks of action it promises to be. Who can stop the Mia Hamm express? Can the Matildas strike a pre-Olympic psychological blow? Which Matilda will blush the most when asked to sign their calendar picture by a young fan? And will Brandi Chastain remember to put on her black Nike sports bra before whipping her shirt off in celebration?

If you're anywhere near Canberra, Sydney or Newcastle before June 11th, I strongly recommend to get in on the action to find out.



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Ying Liu and Tiffany Millbrett.

bunch of girls were three goals up against a bickering, ground punching collection of humiliated young men. They were quite simply different class, and when I'd managed to pick up the remains of a dropped jaw from the ground, my entire view on Women's soccer had changed.

It's a small tale, but it's precisely why I await the inaugural Pacific Cup with baited breath.

Billed as an Olympic warm up, the two-week competition will provide a true barometer for our rapidly emerging Matildas, with the cream of international women's soccer there to be scalped. But they arrive down under with a fearsome pedigree.

The USA team needs no introduc-

Dragi Nastevski Knights and Olyroos

Q: How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life and the profile of Australian Soccer?

A: I think there could be immense changes on both fronts. The Olympic Games gives the opportunity, not only for me but everyone involved to perform at a really high level on the world stage, plus being in Australia, we have that extra support and incentive to do really well. The Games will undoubtedly lift the profile of the local game at least another notch - hopefully our performance can transcend into the local league getting stronger, and having a lot of support behind it, and lift the level of awareness to the general public.

Q: Why will the LG Under-23s perform well at Sydney 2000?

A: Basically because we have a great team, great players, great camaraderie within the team, and as I mentioned before, the home support.

Q: What inspires you?

A: The support that I get from my family and friends - it keeps me going.

Q: Pressure is mounting with the final squad of 18 to be named in around two months ... how are you starting to react to this, and how are your fellow squad members - and competitors for spots - reacting to this?

A: I honestly don't think we feel it - well, I don't anyway. We got out and do what we have to do to prepare to give the team the best chance, we're all giving our best for the opportunity to be in the final squad, but pressure wise, I'm just my same self, giving my best.

Q: Zeljko Susa is both a Melbourne Knight team-mate and an Under-23 team-mate - does it help, particularly mentally, talking things through with him and having him around?

A: Not really - can I say that? No, really, he's great to have around, it's easier when you come into camp and you have someone with you who you spend so much time with during the year - when you go away, you can relate to the experience easier with someone you know well, and that's the relationship that we have.

Q: How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the LG U-23 squad?

A: I'm a hard, tough defender who's got good touches and can pass the ball well and can communicate

well. The way that I am as a player is the way that I carry myself into the team, to do the job that's required of me.

Q: What does the chance of being part of the Australian Olympic Men's Football Squad mean personally to you?

A: Personally it would be a great honour to represent Australia, in front of your home crowd, and particularly the first game at the MCG which will be in front of my home crowd, it will undoubtedly be an unbelievable experience and opportunity for me.

Q: What kind of encouragement and support do you get from your family?

A: All kinds of encouragement and support - not only with soccer but with life in general - if your life outside of soccer is not happy, then you can't perform to your best in soccer.

Q: Is there any one particular member of this current squad who you feel stands out?

A: Joe Didulica for being a greyhound. Oh, and did I mention that I think he's a really good keeper? And basically everybody else - everyone has their own attributes which makes them stand out as individuals.

Q: You've played quite a few internationals for Australia in overseas countries. Exactly how important is home crowd support?

A: Extremely important - the home crowd virtually acts as the 12th man on the park for you. Playing in foreign countries you always have a strong parochial crowd against you, so you play at home, you hope for that same attention for you and against your opposition.

Q: Is there any particular team that you are looking forward to facing at the Olympic Games, and why?

A: No particular team, because it doesn't matter who you play, you still have to go out there and do a job, and that job is to win a medal at the Olympics. So the bottom line is that it doesn't matter who you meet along the way, you still have to beat them.

Q: And your final words for the Australian public?

A: Please come out and support not only the soccer team but all athletes as they endeavour to achieve the ultimate in success - winning medals in Australia.

*Interview courtesy of Soccer Australia



AUSSIES on the world stage

Schwarzer keen to recharge the batteries

Middlesbrough keeper Mark Schwarzer went into the last game of the season delighted that his club has shaken off its yo-yo tag.

The Australian played his part in a satisfactory end to season which, although it has been difficult at times, saw Boro finish in a comfortable mid-table position.

And while that does not match the expectations at the Riverside Stadium when the campaign kicked-off back in August, he admits it would have been more than welcome when he joined the club back in February 1997.

"It's been a long, hard season but to finish in the middle of the table was a reasonable achievement for us this season," he said.

"It's probably not as good as we would have hoped, but on the other hand, there are a lot of clubs this season who have done a lot worse than we have."

"If you look, we've notoriously gone up one season and then back down the next. But we've broken that cycle in the last two seasons and now we have to start to improve our position in the league."

Boro was in Libya last week to play in an end-of-season tournament, but now Bryan Robson's players will get a chance to recharge their batteries before the onslaught starts once again.

Schwarzer admitted he is ready for a rest, but he will keep things ticking over throughout the summer before returning for pre-season.

"I am looking forward to having a break because it's been a tough season," he said. "I'll have played 47 games after the weekend, which is a record for me, so I'm ready for a break."

"You really do need to go away and switch off and relax, but by the time you get towards the end of your holiday, the itch to be back is there."

"There's no point carrying on like a madman throughout the summer because you do need the rest. I'll do a reasonable amount just to keep on top of it and then come back refreshed to start again."

Meanwhile, Schwarzer, who is having a hernia operation during his break, is the latest keeper to be touted as the replacement for Mark Bosnich. Reports indicate that Bosnich is on borrowed time at

Manchester United with the discovery that Sir Alex Ferguson had plans to lure Mark Schwarzer from Middlesbrough this summer. Bosnich's fellow Australian was the goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel recommended as his successor when the Dane quit English football a year ago and Ferguson, having tried once to sign him, had decided on a second attempt for the 27-year-old.

The manager's interest cooled when he found Schwarzer is on a seven-year contract.



Aussies in Asia/Europe

In the Scottish Cup final Rangers completed the double with a 4-0 thumping of bottom club Aberdeen.

Aussie Craig Moore made a timely return from injury to start the game with fellow countryman Tony Vidmar (right) in the centre of the Rangers' defence.

Moore was substituted in the 71st minute while Vidmar played the full game and capped off a superb season when he scored a 47th minute goal with a shot from just inside the box.

This triumph adds to the growing trophy cabinet of Aussies abroad with a number of them part of winning league or cup teams.

Tony Grdic was a winner with Hajduk Split as they claimed the Croatian Cup while former teammate Josip Skoko was part of a Belgium Cup triumph with Racing Genk. Mark Viduka won the Scottish League Cup at Glasgow Celtic, and Mark Bosnich collected a Premiership medal with Manchester United.

In Holland, Zeljko Kalac was in goals as Roda JC beat NEC Nijmegen 2-0 to win the Amstel Cup. The victory means Roda joins Vitesse Arnhem and Ajax Amsterdam as the Dutch entries in next season's UEFA Cup.

Ross Aloisi's Graz AK was also crowned Austrian Cup champions but the former Lorient midfielder did not take the field during the momentous occasion.

Aussies youngsters Richard Garcia and Michael Ferrante had cause for celebration last week when they were part of the West Ham Under 19 team that won the Premier League Academy title.

Garcia had a chance early when the Hammers midfield set him up on 16 minutes but the Aussie



striker's shot was tipped over the bar.

In the 51st minute a deep cross from the right wing found Garcia at the far post who headed home emphatically.

Hammers looked dangerous on the break and Garcia almost scored his second goal but he controlled the ball with his hand before scoring a disallowed effort.

Stevland Angus then came mighty close to sealing the contest for the Hammers as his shot in the 90th minute hit the post and the on-rushing Garcia saw his follow-up well blocked.

Arsenal equalised late in the game and extra time saw no further goals with the two leg final ending in 6-6 tie. In the penalty shoot-out Garcia was one of the penalty scorers for the Hammers from which they emerged triumphant to claim the trophy.

Scott O'Donnell reports that there were no S.League games played this week due to the Singapore Cricket Club Seven's Tournament.

The SCC 7's has seven S.League clubs, three English Youth teams (Leeds, Coventry and Leicester) as well as some veteran teams from the UK and Australia participating. The Australian contingent is being led by former Sydney Olympic and Melita player, Kenny Wilson.

Some of the UK stars include Gordon Strachan, Bryan Robson, Viv Anderson, Gordon McQueen, Clive Walker, Paul Davis, Alan Kennedy and Roy Aitken.

In transfer news, former Marconi and Olympic striker, Alex Duric has signed for Emile Tapai's Home United for the remainder of the season.

Meanwhile, Jurong has decided against signing Sydney United midfielder Aytekin Genc.

Saturday nights favoured Glory option



By Brett Kluczniak

Glory general manager Roger Lefort recently announced that his club will play their home games next season under lights at Perth Oval, most likely on Saturday nights. The move comes after careful consultation with the club's loyal supporters.

"Obviously it will be better for the players, but as much as anything, we owe it to our fans who have had to sit out in the searing summer heat in the middle of the afternoon," Lefort said.

He added that it is hoped that the attraction of playing under lights will bring back many of the fans that dropped off over the hot summer months.

"Attendances have been down at most NSL grounds this season but we feel that the heat is partly to blame in our case."

Prior to this season, Glory's average attendance was 14,227 over their three seasons in the NSL, but this fell unexpectedly over the summer when gates averaged exactly 12,000.

The announcement of night games in Perth came hot on the heels of a poll conducted by *The West Australian* which saw 88% of the respondents nominate Saturday at the preferred time for games.

Only 12% voted for Sunday night while there was very little support for Friday nights. "We did our own research and this confirms what we expected - that Saturday night is the one that most people would prefer," Lefort said.

"It's great to have feedback from our fans and we will try and give them what they want. Saturday nights offer more of an opportunity for families to come along and support us under lights.

"We are sure that balmy evenings with a family atmosphere would be very attractive."

At the current time it's likely that games at Perth Oval will kick-off at 7.00pm which will allow families to enjoy a night on the town after the game if they so desired.

Another advantage of the choice of match night was Glory's ability to cater for the hordes of travelling supporters the club have built.

Currently Glory fans come from as far and wide as Albany in the south to Geraldton in the north to watch their team every second Sunday at Perth Oval.

If games were played on Friday or Sunday nights these legions of fans would not be accommodated for.

The club have consulted lighting experts over the matter and are still looking at several different types of lighting available. "We have got a num-

ber of quotes, but as yet we haven't made a final decision. We plan to have the lights installed for the first match of next season," Lefort said.

The cost of the lighting is likely to be upwards of \$700,000 depending on which system is installed. There are currently two options being considered, the first to erect four permanent towers outside the playing arena of Perth Oval. The other option is to use three mobile towers which would sit just behind the sideline seats and that could be removed for Australian Rules football games at the venue.

There is also the likelihood that a series of lights will be fitted along the top of the existing grandstand.

Glory will play at Perth Oval until the State Government come good with their promise of a purpose-built soccer stadium.

Such a venue was first mooted four years ago when a feasibility study was conducted and funds set aside for the project.

Since then several further studies have been held and it is expected that the successful tender and site will be announced in June or July with construction commencing before the end of the year.

Currently chairman of Perth S.C.'s Soccer Academy, former Perth Glory coach Gary Marocchi, is a regular at Dorrien Gardens where he "likes to see a few games and see if there is any talent around."

Interviewed by Paul Tombides for Ch31, he was asked if he'd seen any potential NSL stars during the recent Perth-Athena clash and was quick to point out two players in particular. "Perth signed Nick Mrdja (from Canberra Cosmos), he's certainly done very well for them and he scored two goals today.

"And I'm still impressed by Troy Bernard at Floreat, I think he's certainly a player who should be playing in a higher competition."

Marocchi has been a long time supporter of Bernard and came close to signing the sweeper-cum-midfielder for Glory in mid-1997.

With Perth surprisingly languishing in the bottom half of the table, Marocchi believes they have what it takes to turn their season around. "Perth's not really performed to their level, I think they've got some very good young players in their side and they really should be up a lot higher, but full credit to the other sides."

"Swan I.C. haven't lost a game so far and they're the surprise packet. It's good to see some of the lesser lights doing so well."

Readers' Forum

One problem that will follow any successful reform of the national league is a growing gap between the national league and the state leagues. A second division might fill the gap but that does not seem to be on the cards.

So what else can be done to increase the intensity of play in the state leagues?

The direct answer is money and marketing nous, but Soccer Australia does not have much of either to spare. However, Soccer Australia can provide an opportunity for state league teams to gain exposure.

The solution here is a State Champions League. It could be organised along the lines I have suggested for a regional second division (number of representatives in parentheses): Group 1, QLD (3), Northern NSW (1); Group 2, NSW (3), ACT (1); Group 3, VIC (3), TAS (1); and Group 4, SA (2), WA (2).

Each league would be represented by the Major Premier, and for the bigger federations the highest ranked team(s) on the regular season ladder.

The State Champion League itself would then be played along the same lines as the European international competitions, with a group stage followed by a knockout.

This provides a complement rather than a replacement for a national Cup competition.

However, if a national Cup is introduced, a State Champions League could also serve to select state league teams for the Cup.

Anywhere from two to eight state league teams could be selected by entering the finalists, semifinalists, or quarterfinalists from the State Champions League into the national Cup.

Bruce McFarling,
Shortland, NSW

Soccer number one in Victorian Schools

It's official, soccer is the most popular game amongst primary school children in Victoria.

Research conducted by the School Sports Unit has found that the game has the highest participation rate in Victoria amongst school children.

Based on these findings, the Victorian Soccer Federation have unleashed the Primary School's Program which has the aim of developing increasing interest into better young players.

The VSF have recently appointed Ashley Cooper as Sports Development Officer to coordinate this program.

The School Sports Unit's research found out exactly which schools are leading the way in terms of playing the sport, as well as which schools need support and guidance in order to increase their participation numbers.

Using these results, the VSF development staff will be going out to schools around Victoria with the aim of enhancing teacher soccer knowledge, as well as improving the skills of the children themselves.



While accomplishing this, contacts of nearby clubs will be passed on to the school-aged children, which will provide a link between VSF clubs and those children interested in the game.

This program shows how serious the VSF is about junior development, and with VSF licensed ball supplier REAL showing its keen support for Victorian soccer by supplying all the participating schools with balls, this development program indicates an optimistic future for the grass roots of Australian soccer.

Quotes of the week

"I swear I saw Bernd Stange in a pornographic movie this morning."

Nick Theodorakopoulos at the pre-match Glory v Wolves press conference in Perth.

A contender for quote of the season?

"These guys were so arrogant. They had the audacity to tell us we were lucky to get the result. They claimed they were robbed because Quinton Fortune's goal was offside and deserved a penalty when I dispossessed one of their players inside the goal area. I am upset that we failed to rub their noses into the soft New Zealand turf. We certainly had enough opportunities to kill them off."

The South African Olympic captain after their 3-2 away win over New Zealand in Auckland. The second leg should be a spicy affair.



Flying High

By Aidan Ormond

It is somewhat ironic that John Hutchinson is a Falcon. You see, he hates flying! And when you're an NSL player you're in the skies over this vast continent almost every second week. While most players enjoy the travelling the Gippsland midfielder dreads it like nothing else. In fact it causes much mirth amongst his teammates when Hutchinson - in his fourth year as a senior player - goes into the crash position as the Ansett flights take off and land.

"Yeah, for some of the others they really enjoy the flying, like Clayton Bell for instance, but me, I get sweaty and very very nervous, especially when we were coming back from Auckland and there was turbulence," said Hutchinson from Gippsland yesterday.

"Most of the guys have a bit of a laugh and joke about it at my expense."

On the park Hutchinson, 20, has been flying too. The Falcons' young player of the year 99/2000 has added a more physical edge to his skill; and he thanks hardman coach Jeff Hopkins for that. "He is such a great coach. He's made me tougher, showed me better ways to tackle and win headers and my game has improved with this ... defensive-wise my game is much stronger as a result of having him at the club."

Gippsland's experienced defender Manny Gotis describes Hutchinson's season as "sensational ... he has definitely come of age this year."

And 'Hutchy' - who made his senior debut at 14 with local side Morwell Pegasus - poured cold water over the notion that with the Welsh international at the helm Gippsland was a defensive side.

"No, we're not defensive at all," he retorts. "He (Hopkins) encourages the side to go forward and score all the time. He wants everyone to get into scoring positions. It's just that in front of goal we have let ourselves down, that's why we didn't end up scoring that many (just 23 in 34 rounds, the second worst in the league.)

"Jeff (Hopkins) is very tactical. We never go for a draw, we go to win, even in Perth. I honestly reckon we are just two players away from being a top six side," Hutchinson says.

Hutchinson however is realistic and knows that a quality striker is probably out of the financial reach of the Victorian regional club.

The conversation then turned to the top six, Hutchinson tipping Glory, with their immense crowd support, to win the league. Crowd support in Gippsland is an issue that has this Falcon baffled and disappointed.

"It's funny sometimes you feel the crowd isn't on your side at home. They

(the Falcons fans) are pretty quiet ... you have to score a goal first then they're noisy. Maybe because there hasn't been much success. At the start of the season - when we were doing well - they were cheering for us and then after we lost a few games they sort of faded away."

Hutchinson is a full-time employee at Gippsland. Aside from his on-field duties he promotes the club through the Valsport Development Group. Ben Cassar, John Buhagiar and Hutchinson do the PR thing in the region with visits to schools, hospitals, clinics etc. They even went to Orbost, 130kms away.

"When you travel around you get to hear what people are thinking about the Falcons and most say it's because we aren't winning that they don't come along. It seems to be the Australian mentality," he muses. "You look at the AFL, it's the same with their fans, not just in soccer."

Hutchinson - who has been at the club since he was 15 - would like to stay at Gippsland (his contract is up right now) but would be open to offers from other NSL clubs.

"To their credit they (the club) have told us that if they can't pay our wages then they won't continue as a club, which I think is the honest way of doing things. But the future seems bright because they are employing more people and trying to strengthen and improve the club."

One improvement next year will be



Gippsland's John Hutchinson: out of contract but keen to stay at Mobil Park.

the surface at Mobil Park. It has long been a bug bear with NSL players and coaches, but it will be re-turfed and the club will look for an alternative training venue to keep Mobil Park's pitch in good order.

Hutchinson, who contractually is not allowed to play for any other side in the off-season, plans to keep fit by training at Pegasus and going to the gym and road-running with his girlfriend Melissa. Falcons are planning to start their pre-season on August 7.

"John Hutchinson will undertake counselling before next season for his travel fears."



Adelaide City keeper Adrian Cagalj with Daniela

You are a new name on the NSL scene. Who is Adelaide City Force's Adrian Cagalj?

An uncomplicated individual.

Which former clubs have you played for?

Altona City, North Geelong Warriors, Carlton, and now Adelaide Force.

What is it about soccer that you love the most?

It is a team sport. My position as a 'keeper also means it is an individual sport, so I get the best of both worlds.

What words of wisdom the experienced heads at Adelaide City have instilled in you to guide you clear of murky waters?

If you want to be like these guys, you can't get too far ahead of yourself. There a hundred guys that could be in my position, but I was given the opportunity and have taken it. Because I am playing regular NSL does not mean I can relax. I can always better myself. There are overseas opportunities and something higher to strive for.

Do you have aspirations to break into European football?

Yes, there are a lot of guys going over. I'll look at it. Our finals berth can't harm my chances, either.

Was it daunting arriving at a club knowing that you would be the fourth 'keeper to pop on the gloves and try your hand in goals?

No, I didn't think of it that way. I thought in terms of doing a good job, and everything else would fall into place. I knew the Auckland game was important because if I played well and

we won I would win the confidence of my team-mates. They then wouldn't worry about me being another new 'keeper and would concentrate on their own game.

No matter how exciting the saves, how acrobatic the goalkeeper, if you make mistake the crowd is immediately your enemy. How true is this?

Very true. When I am in the stands and see a 'keeper make a mistake I immediately hear the mumbles. Crowds are unforgiving. We can be heroes or villains.

Goalkeepers tend to have a secret society among themselves - there is said to be a crazy side to all 'keepers. Is this part of the job description?

I'm the exception to the rule.

What are the qualities of a good coach?

Man-management. If a coach has got good people skills, and treats players with respect, then his job becomes a lot easier.

In one word describe Zoran Matic.

The Man: Dude

The Coach: Different

Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?

You can try and pick good qualities from a lot of 'keepers, but ultimately you are your own man.

What's so special about Mark Bosnich?

He plays for Manchester United and earns \$50,000 a week!

Who or what inspires you?

Humphrey B. Bear, because he still doesn't wear pants!

What are some of Adrian Cagalj's off

field pastimes?

I'm on the tennis court and trying to finish my diploma in marketing and starting a degree in Criminology.

Which famous person have you been told you look like?

The guy from 'Steps'.

If you could have any supernatural power what would it be?

Mind reading.... So I know who my friends are.

Complete this sentence. "Love is..." ...lucky to those who find it.

What is your most cherished possession?

I treat my possession equally - without discrimination.

What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

Some people might think that we are unapproachable.

What is your pet hate?

People who hate pets.

Do you have any hidden talents?

No-one washes dishes like me.

How would you spend your last \$50.

On a book titled 'How to turn \$50 into \$1,000,000'.

In an interview with Dean Anastasiadis he commented on your wardrobe he seems to dislike your '70's flares. Any thoughts on his stylish range of gear?

Dodgy tight pants, dodgy tight t-shirts with big brands written on them, with his dodgy white BMW! - but apart from that he's cool!!

Vilson Knezevic (Adelaide's former 'keeper), myself and I have been close friends for quite a number of years and we were all born and raised in Melbourne.



Adrian Cagalj (in the background): gets mistaken for the guy from British popstars 'Steps'!

What are your memories of our 'Metro' days when we used to hit the nightclubs?

They're fond but hazy. I never drove. We had crazy and carefree nights. We were much younger - 19-20 years old, and able to drink more.

Actually as I recall, Vilson and Adrian were the drinkers - in fact I got stuck driving the pair home on more than one occasion, with the odd stop at KFC near the Westgate Bridge. Ah, those were crazy days.

Anyway, thanks Adrian and good luck with Force.



The Four Diegos

with Olyroo coach Raul Blanco

Sydney 2000 2000



This week on Guest of the Week we have the man at helm of the Olyroos charge for Gold medal glory come September. Please a big Four Diegos and Inside Soccer welcome to coach of the Olyroos ... Raul Blanco

Diegos: "The time is getting near. The arguments about marching bands, ticketing and who the hell is carrying the torch are just about over.

Whether you like it or not, you are the man and your team is set to create history come September, opening the Olympics on the MCG in front of a worldwide audience of billions.

How are the preparations going? Are you a nervous wreck or are you pretty cool about things?"

Blanco: "I think I have the experience now to be far cooler than I used to be when I was a young man. Obviously the moment of truth is coming and we are all aware of it but for the time being I am remaining very cool."

The preparations are quite good given the difficult situation that we have to operate in. As you know we have a lot of players in Europe and a number of our players are playing in the NSL finals presently, so everyone is at varying levels of fitness.

Nevertheless I think we have structured a good preparation and all is looking well for September."

Diegos: "At what stage of preparation is the squad at present? Are you ahead of schedule or lagging behind your preferred level?"

Blanco: "The squad as you know is scattered around the world. We have 14 players in the Olyroos squad that play in different countries. This is a unique situation in any sport let alone soccer.

It would be great if we had all the players completing their league commitments at the same time but this is unrealistic. So we have to accept that we will have one part of the squad training at home and another part of the squad training elsewhere.

This makes for a difficult task but there's nothing we can do. Geographically we are isolated so it is a situation that we have to accept."

Diegos: "The Four Diegos spies tell us that they've spotted you incognito - fake moustache and glasses - at Carlton games recently, apparently keeping an eye on the Four Diegos very own Simon Colosimo.

He has made a remarkable recovery from a crippling knee injury - and is back with the Socceroos for Paraguay - but in your mind has he done enough to be penciled back into calculations for your squad?"

Blanco: "There's no doubt in my mind that Simon is an extraordinary player but obviously, he has suffered a very

bad injury which has taken him a relatively long time to recover from.

He is on the way back at present and we are keeping a close eye on him because he is a very important player.

He is coming along very nicely but I don't think he has yet reached the same level he was at prior to the injury. In the games that he has played so far you can see that his confidence is gradually coming back.

He is looking better but I think he still has a lot of hard work ahead of him."

Diegos: "We know that you'd never tell the Diegos who the over-age players in the Olympic squad will be if we asked, so we've made up a list of who we think the players should be and we want your response.

Mark Bosnich in goal, Paul Okon as the anchor in midfield and the V-Bomber, Mark Viduka partnering Harry Kewell up front.

What do you think?"

Blanco: "I think the beauty of our country is that everybody has the freedom of expressing an opinion and it's good to see that the Diegos are always ready to exercise that freedom."

Obviously the players you've mentioned are all unbelievable talents. I cannot say how close or how far you are off the mark but they are definitely all very, very talented players."

Diegos: "In a recent conversations

with Olyroc Daniel Allsopp, the Diegos discovered that you are able to keep contact with all your squad anywhere in the world via the Internet and e-mail.

Apparently Soccer Australia, as part of an initiative that is quite unique in world sport, has given each player a laptop.

Has it made things easier for you as a coach and are you worried at all that the boys might play a bit of a prank and unleash an 'I Love You Raul' type virus on the web?"

Blanco: "Well yes, I was surprised once I saw the words I love you sent to me via the e mail. I had no idea that I was so loved by the players.

You are right, it is a unique initiative to cope with a unique situation. The enormity of the task of keeping in touch with all the players is well documented.

Every player in the squad has a laptop computer that they use to keep in touch with the Australian coaches, psychologists, nutritionists and medical staff. Better communication leads to better decisions being made. It has certainly been a plus for the squad."

Diegos: "Thanks Raul. Remember Raul the Diegos will always love you. Adios amigo."

Blanco: "Thanks Diegos. Just stop e-mailing me. Adios amigos"

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Carlton's awesome

CARLTON 2

Thompson 36, S Horvat 103

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

June 67

Sunday afternoon at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd 2,552.

Minor Semi Final: Carlton goes to Preliminary Final against Wollongong.



Steve Horvat celebrated his recall to the Socceroos squad with a golden goal to send Sydney Olympic spinning out of the finals race at Olympic Park on Sunday night.

His looping header fourteen minutes into sudden-death extra time ensures Carlton stays alive for another week, but there is a growing belief that Stuart Munro's team can now go all the way.

It may have lacked the atmosphere of the Major Semi Final at Subiaco but Sunday night's match lacked none of the drama.

The Blues emerged from a tight struggle as deserved 2-1 winners after both sides had put on a typically last man standing affair but with the score locked at 1-1 at the end of regulation time it was Carlton who found something extra when it counted.

The match kicked off in blustery, cold conditions and with rain falling for most of the weekend, and Melbourne Storm playing Penrith at the venue the previous day, there were doubts over the suitability of the pitch.

But it must be said that the pitch was in remarkably good condition, except for a slippery patch in one corner, and referee Simon Micallef was understanding of both the surface and the occasion and did well to restrict his card waving under the circumstances.

Branko Culina was hardly impressed with the surface, but opted for the same starting line-up as last week, with Brett Emerton, Pablo Cardozo, Gabriel Mendez

and Kresimir Marusic forming a potentially lethal quartet of attacking players.

At the other end of the park Stuart Munro opted for the stronger John Markovski rather than the pacy Alex Moreira as the striking partner for Archie Thompson, while the only personnel worry for Munro was the absence of Stuart Slater who damaged a calf muscle on Saturday at training.

As expected, Andrew Marth and Lubo Lapsansky took on the talented Olympic ball players, but the duel in central midfield was overshadowed by the enthralling battle between Simon Colosimo and Paul Kohler out wide, where both players contributed greatly to their team's attacking motions and were often found assisting at the back as well.

Carlton were on the front foot from the first whistle despite playing into strong wind, forcing a series of free kicks around Olympic's eighteen yard box, one of which almost produced an opening goal after two minutes.

McPherson headed over from a Colosimo free kick wide on the right, but John Perosh was called into action minutes later when forced to fingertip away a Lapsansky shot which had just caught a deflection off the toe of Craig Deans.

It took the visitors thirteen minutes to get an effort on target, Kohler firing at Anastasiadis after the ball had squirted clear to him at the top of the 'D', but with the number of quality players on show it was inevitable Olympic would work their way into the match.

Colosimo received a yellow card for a late tackle on Scott Thomas, which



Ante Juric (left) challenges Carlton's promising defender, Lubo Lapsansky (right), as Lindsay Wilson (not shown) distinguishes Sydney Olympic.

seemed to spark the visitors into action both physically and mentally.

Mendez forced Anastasiadis into a diving one-handed save after Deans had given the ball away deep in his own half, then Baillie and Emerton both went close with headed efforts before Marusic turned and shot just wide after good build-up work from Mendez and Emerton.

Carlton's best chances continued to come via set pieces, and Markovski will feel he should have hit the target after connecting with a Lapsansky free kick.

Ante Juric exacted revenge, of sorts, on Colosimo, collecting him with a late challenge but Micallef was consistent enough to book the Olympic captain.

Juric was almost involved in further mischief moments later, when his outstretched foot threatened to deflect an Andrew Marth header over his own goalkeeper, but John Perosh back-pedalled in style to see the ball over safely.

The Sydney team were still looking dangerous in attack however, with Emerton and Marusic combining to create an opening for Mendez to shoot before Steve Horvat rescued Carlton with another timely tackle to take the pace off the shot and make life easier for Anastasiadis.

Cardozo then shot straight at the 'keeper from fifteen metres when on another day Olympic's top scorer may well have slotted it home.

By contrast, Carlton's in-form striker Archie Thompson converted his next half-chance with aplomb. Lubo Lapsansky's corner was flicked

on by Andrew Marth and Thompson did well to hook the ball in from close range. With confidence sky high, he almost made it 2-0 minutes later when his first time left foot shot from a low Mark Atkinson cross forced Perosh to save down low to his right.

Lapsansky, as usual, was happy to try his luck from long range but it was Mark Atkinson who again forced Perosh into action, with a low cross-shot which needed to be pushed around the far post just before the break.

The home side continued their dominance after the break, and Andrew Packer almost scored within a minute of the restart, dribbling around Baillie and chipping on to the top of the bar with Perosh well beaten.

The match was a tighter affair for the next ten minutes, with Carlton happy to retain possession and Olympic realising that a second goal would kill off the game.

Cardozo and Marusic had their moments on the ball, but the Carlton defence was in fine form, and the recent queries over a lack of pace in the Blues' backline was not evident here.

Stuart Munro replaced Markovski with Alex Moreira and the club's top scorer was straight into the thick of things, coping a heavy challenge from Thomas who received a yellow for his efforts.

Olympic responded by withdrawing Lindsay Wilson in favour of Nick Carle in a concerted effort to find an equaliser.

Continued next page



In flight entertainment: Blues powerhouse Andrew Marth

MINOR SEMI FINAL MATCH STATS



Carlton:
Anastasiadis, Horvat,
McPherson, Dears,
Atkinson, Marth,
Lapsansky, Colosimo,
Packer (Terminello 83),
Thompson, Markovski (Moreira 60).

Sydney Olympic:
Perosh, Juric, Sinozic,
Baillie, Kohler, Thomas,
Wilson (N. Carle 63),
Mendez, Marusic,
Emerton, Cardozo.

Yellows:
Carlton: Colosimo 12, McPherson 63.
Olympic: Juric 22, Thomas 61, Mendez 76.

Best Players:
3. KOHLER (OLYMPIC)
2. Deans (Carlton)
1. Lapsansky (Carlton)

Referee: Simon Micallef.

Glory on the cusp of

PERTH GLORY 2

Trajkovski 85, Ergic 93.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0



Saturday night at Subiaco Oval, Perth. Crowd: 42,760.

Major Semi Final Second Leg: Perth go through to Grand Final on 2-1 aggregate.

By Dennis Gedling

Red shield appeal day with the slogan 'Thank god for the salvos' was the same weekend as this match, but at Subiaco Oval Perth Glory and the army of fans that follow the club were saying 'Thank god for the AIS'.

AIS scholarship holders Ivan Ergic and Ljubo Milicevic starred in the 2-0 (golden goal) win over Wollongong Wolves to go into their first ever Grand final.

A Rob Trajkovski penalty with only five minutes to play got the Glory level with the Wolves on aggregate but super sub Ergic sealed the Perth side's first ever grand final appearance with a well taken goal four minutes into injury time.

Words cannot describe the absolutely electric atmosphere and expectation at Subiaco Oval as the home side tried to get back on level terms with the Wolves after a 1-0 loss in Wollongong.

The pubs around Subiaco normally used to mild mannered AFL fans were overrun with a sea of people in purple and orange seeking some pre game lubricant before singing and yelling their hearts out for the home side in the evening.

A buzz around the ground swelled towards kick off, the pre game entertainment and fans in the purple home tops face paint and flags walking around the massive stadium added excitement to the match.

Dion Valle was the unlucky player to make way for the now fit Troy Halpin who

started his first game since the 2-1 loss to Newcastle in April. Gareth Naven switched back to take Valle's spot with Halpin slotting into midfield.

Wollongong was unchanged from the side that played Perth off the park in the first leg.

The game got off to a tremendous roar with both sides playing hard from the start. Only a minute had passed when Stuart Young and Naven clashed just outside the Glory penalty box. In the tussle for the ball (Naven gave away a penalty against Young at Brandon Park), Young kicked out at the Glory captain right in front of the referee.

David Cervinski and Bobby Despotovski had half chances but Wollongong were not the same attacking side from the previous match, players getting behind the ball and not giving the Glory a chance in the opening moments of the match.

Despotovski and Alistair Edwards were starting to find space as the match went on and two major chances fell to the former but he squandered both

Dino Mennillo was having a strong game in the opening 20 minutes, his pacy runs at the defence making up for the fact Scott Chipperfield was being well covered by Trajkovski on the left wings.

Glory, backed by an extremely noisy crowd, was slowly taking over the match but opportunities were not being exploited.

Despotovski blew another chance shooting wide before Glory came inches away from hitting the lead. A corner taken by Halpin was hit to the near post where Kasey Wehrman shot the ball across the area bringing panic into the defence. The ball bobbed out of the keeper's hands into the path of Jamie Hamwell who headed the ball onto the crossbar with the rebound being cleared by the Wolves defence.

Chipperfield was booked on the half hour mark when a rash tackle on Trajkovski was acted upon by Shields, who was having a consistent game which, in view of the rarified atmosphere, was much-needed.

Glory had another opportunity to open to scoring when a quick pass from the home side's midfield found Edgar on a run on the right side. The little Brazilian shot into the area but his shot was blocked by the Wolves keeper, it was the first real save of the match.

The Wolves were really under pressure as the half went on, the WA side having the same domination that their opponents had enjoyed the previous Sunday.

A great corner from Halpin went straight to the head of Edwards who headed it towards goal before the keeper reached it, the ball was then headed off the line by Spencer who got back quickly to make sure the keeper's blunder wouldn't result in a goal.



And didn't the fans love it. Almost 43,000 at 'Subby' for a spectacular night in Australian football history.

Glory were cruising through the first half but just couldn't finish attacking runs set up by the dominating midfield of Wehrman, Edgar and Halpin.

Continued next page

Stars of the show humble in victory

The post match press conference was packed as expected and looking at the expressions of the two coaches anyone who didn't know the result wouldn't have been able to pick the winning coach.

Bernard Stange (flanked by his captain Gareth Naven and former AIS players Ivan Ergic and Ljubo Milicevic) was very drained by the emotion and stress of the match.

First off Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos (accompanied by captain Matt Horsley) said that he thought they knew in the back of his mind that they blew it in Wollongong only coming away with a 1-0 result after dominating the match.

"We knew the chances we let slip last Sunday would come back to haunt us but we could have done more over here," said the Wolves coach.

"We came in unchanged and we still feel we're good enough, we have the ability". The victorious coach Stange said that this one of his biggest moments in his long coaching career that started in 1972.

"It was one of the best feelings. I couldn't see any difference to European soccer, to Germany or Italy or England." Stange said.

He went on to say "It was similar, the crowd, the fans and all the other things." Stange also said that soccer was the biggest winner out of the match, which Theodorakopoulos agreed with.

Horsley backed up his coaches' claims about having a team good enough to win the premiership, stating that "our team spirit between the actual

players is stronger than most. We'll be back. It was a good performance for 85 minutes."

The men of the moment, Ivan Ergic and Ljubo Milicevic were their usual selves. Ergic admitting he could hardly remember anything after scoring the golden goal. The young super sub said that "Everyone grabbed me and hugged me, I couldn't even breath, it is something I'll never forget".

Milicevic should be knighted for his effort in the Glory defence. His skill to outwit much smaller and quicker players when the Wolves made rare attacks was something to behold along with his thrilling runs forward, his large frame galloping at a fast pace which, in one probing run, almost resulted in a goal for the youngster.

Wollongong were (like the Glory really) predictable in their set up and plays. Glory's only real strategy after the half time break was pushing Miller and Trajkovski up to midfield and creating more attacking runs.

The penalty saw the Wolves drop their heads but two clear chances were wasted by Stuart Young and Horsley in injury time.

It was a just result but the Glory are far from unbeatable in Perth, the crowd is a massive lift but they are predictable and both teams left to play off for a Grand Final place have a good idea of how Glory tick.

It should make for an action filled Grand Final in front of another massive crowd on Sunday week.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL MATCH STATS



PERTH GLORY:
Petkovic, Miller, Hamwell,
Milicevic, Naven (Ergic 46),
Trajkovski, Edgar,
Wehrman, Halpin, Edwards,
Despotovski (Aurelio 60).



**WOLLONGONG
WOLVES:** Pogliacomi,
Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski,
Horsley, Reid, Spencer,
Chipperfield, Menillo
(Souris 79), Petrovski (Masi
90), Young.

Yellows:

Glory: G Naven 42
Wolves: Chipperfield 29, Souris 85.

Best Players:

1. LJUBO MILICEVIC (GLORY)
2. Ivan Ergic (Glory)
3. Jason Petkovic (Glory)

Referee: Mark Shields

Aussie soccer history



The kids are alright: mates and Glory teammates Ljubo Milicevic (above) and Ivan Ergic.



The rock at the back of the home side defence, Ljubo Milicevic, was having the game of his life, organising the defence and even having a shot on goal himself just before half time - his attacking run going from end to end.

Naven was booked in the latter stages of the first half for a savage tackle on Young (which may have been a pay

back for the opening stoush but the Glory weren't done trying to even up the ledger.)

A hopeful cross by Trajkovski from the right looking for the running Despotovski was mis-hit, causing a stir from fans thinking it had gone in. Great keeping from Pogliacomi kept the ball out and the sides went into half time deadlocked.

During the half time break the Perth captain Naven was subbed for teenage star Ergic but it was the Wolves who had the upper hand in the opening stages of the second half.

First a break from a Glory corner gave Young a golden opportunity to get a vital goal for his side but he could only shoot wide and into the side netting.

Noel Spencer was the next one to go close to sending the Wolves into the Grand Final with a pot shot on goal going inches over the crossbar.

The frustration of the home side was starting to show with some rash tackles that weren't being penalised by Shields (who was having a much improved game from his last effort in Perth against the Power.)

Halpin and Wehrman's rule over the midfield was slowly being eroded as Paul Reid and powerful Noel Spencer were starting to harass and dispossess the Glory midfielders but Perth were still finding ways to blow golden opportunities to score.

Despotovski was again wasted a chance when his lack of pace and effort meant he did not meet a great Wehrman cross which would have put him one on one with the keeper.

This missed chance by the Glory striker was the last straw for Bernd Stange who told Aurelio to get ready to come on. On the hour the Brazilian replaced Despotovski and the nippy striker started making an instant impact using his pace and skills to dance around defenders and set up chances.

His link up with fellow countryman Edgar almost resulted in a goal, the latter's finishing sub standard as the ball went miles over the crossbar.

The Wolves were once again on the backfoot with Trajkovski and Scott Miller starting to get the better of their markers on the wings, the attacking thrusts of the home side resulting in a succession of corners which weren't taken advantage of.

The counter attack was the one weapon Wollongong were relying on and it almost sent them into the Grand

final if not for Glory keeper Jason Petkovic.

A clearance from another home side corner found the Wolves three on one at the back - Chipperfield received a Reid pass and was clear with only the keeper to beat. As the star midfielder ran into the area the running Petkovic came out and saved at Chipperfield's feet and kept Glory in the match.

The roar of applause from the crowd acknowledged the fact that Petkovic saved the Glory. This turned out to be a pivotal moment in the game, and perhaps their season?

Defender George Souris relieved the tiring Menillo with 10 minutes to go but that made no difference with Glory creating havoc in the Wolves defence.

Miller missed another chance near the end of the match but headed wide.

Perth were running out of time and all looked lost until Ergic had one late dash to the goal, his persistence and ability to dance around and frustrate his markers resulted in the major lifeline Glory needed when his run into the penalty area was halted with a harsh tackle from Souris.

Shields pointed to the spot.

The designated penalty taker Trajkovski had the weight of the world on his shoulders but he kept his cool and the penalty went past the keeper's left and the Glory went 1-0 up and level on aggregate with only five minutes left.

Not one person had left the ground and the roar when the goal went in was only a prelude to the winner in extra time.

A pin-point pass from Halpin found Wehrman and the Olyroo held the ball up and waited for support. His pass found Halpin who passed the ball straight into a Wolves player. The deflected ball came back to Halpin who squared it to the running Ergic. The youngster then ran at the defence, did a quick one two with Aurelio and ended up being one on one with the keeper.

He simply slotted the ball past the keeper and the stadium erupted.

Every single Glory fan in the stadium



jumped and cheered, yelled and cried as Ergic was swamped by his delirious teammates.

The newly built stands being shaken to their foundations by the unbelievable noise as the players and coaching staff did a lap of honour.

Out of the corner of most people's eyes you could see the Wolves players heads down heading straight for the changing rooms knowing they had blown a chance to host the grand final.

The noise and excitement finally died down as the Subiaco groundsmen got to work in transforming the ground back into an Aussie Rules venue.

A great victory but the big prize still awaits.

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INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



Thompson Strike Brings Power First Pot



Power's scorer Matt Thompson. The former Maccaur junior is looking good for a senior berth next season.

By Arlo White

An opportunistic first half strike from diminutive midfielder Matt Thompson was enough to down a spirited Marconi Stallions on Saturday night, and ensure that Parramatta's fabulous first season ended bathed in silver.

After the Power had completely dominated the opening exchanges at a chilly Melita Stadium, Monte Pfengle broke dangerously into Stallions territory, and when his miscued thread somehow evaded the favourite Aaron Bennett, Thompson pounced to smash a super low effort into the bottom right hand corner of Daniel Schwarzer's net.

On the balance of play it had been coming, but the pint-sized prospect's cool

15th minute finish had NSL class stamped all over it.

In a rough, tough, often brutal Grand Final, it was the Minor Premier Power who settled early, and barely sixty seconds had elapsed when Ahmed Elrich thrashed a fierce warning shot across Schwarzer's bows. Marconi's nervy opening was almost compounded a minute later and poor Bennett was so nearly the culprit again. A teasing low centre from the already influential Elrich screwed off the centre half's left boot, and he was mightily relieved to see the errant ball spin off the foot of the post and out to safety.

The young Stallions' first sight of goal came on 14 minutes. Exciting Fijian prospect Jasaisa Junior span away from the Power midfield before thundering a 30-yard exorcist on goal. The shot was straight and true but Power custodian Barney Smith was well positioned to gather cleanly.

After Elrich had shaved the bar with a cute curling effort on 21, the game descended into a midfield war of attrition. Both sides' muscular defences began throwing their considerable weight around, and Parramatta's Roodenburg and Marconi's Gulessarian will surely be feeling the effects of some of the particularly roughhouse treatment being dished out.

The second period though, was a far more open, urgent affair. On 52 minutes a goal bound Beauchamp header was almost bundled home by an unmarked Junior, and at the other end Pfengle had two snap shots repelled by eager Stallion defenders.

But with his tireless strikers getting little change out of a Power back line being

expertly marshalled by the faultless Mark Byrnes, Marconi boss Jean Paul De Marigny made a shrewd tactical switch. By withdrawing Junior and shifting Daniel Severino back into midfield, the Stallions suddenly had a powerful physical presence in the centre of the park.

The effect was almost immediate. Severino's blistering 35 yard free kick was seen late by Smith, and it took sharp reflexes and quick feet for the Power keeper to turn the ball round for a corner.

After Thompson and Beauchamp had swapped efforts, Gulessarian came closest to levelling the scores after 73 minutes, but his strike after a sumptuous swivel and turn was barely inches wide.

In a frantic finale, substitute Danny Kuckuka came within a whisker of sealing glory with a rising snap shot, and burly striker Luke Roodenburg soon followed with an angled effort narrowly wide of the mark.

But with the game ticking over into injury time, Severino had one final chance to cap his excellent second half showing with a dramatic equaliser. Teeing his free kick up from 25 yards, the stocky midfielder's fizzing effort brought gasps from the healthy turn out before drifting just wide of Smith's left hand post, and with it went the gallant Stallions last chance of forcing extra time.

A beaming Power coach Paul McFadden was full of praise for his dominant young charges afterwards, "It's been a very successful season for us", the bubbly Scot enthused. "We held our trials back in August after everybody else had selected their teams, but they've all blended together really well. It wasn't the prettiest game of

Football", he continued, "but it's the result that counts in the Grand Final. We have played a lot better this season and scored more goals, but I'm still very satisfied with the win."

Marconi boss Jean Paul De Marigny was still upbeat despite the defeat. "I'm not at all disappointed with the way the players applied themselves", he said. "The second half we pushed and pushed but it just didn't come. Having said that, the way that the boys played all year and tonight, I'm very proud of them".

But on the night, and over a scintillating campaign as a whole, Parramatta's victory was well deserved, and watching first grade coach Dave Mitchell will surely hope that this title winning lark becomes a habit throughout his fledgling club. With five players of the starting eleven on show having already tasted NSL action, the future sure seems bright for the Power, and the success of Mitchell's young guns will surely be food for thought as he plots his off season assault on next year's top six.

PARRAMATTA POWER: Smith, Dixon, Keiso, Pfengle, Gatt, B. Santalab (Kuckuka 75), Elrich, Thompson, Roodenburg, Bymes, Down

MARCONI STALLIONS: Schwarzer, Trajevski, Beauchamp, Bennett, Hartsham, Junior (Mondello 58), Manente, Anabalan (De-Roit 71), Brodie (Lettieri 78), Gulessaran, Severino

Yellow Cards: Stallions: Lettieri 90

Best Players:

3. BYRNES (POWER)

2. Elrich (Power)

1. Severino (Stallions)

Carlton wins back-to-back titles



By Roy Hay

Carlton made it back to back titles when it overran South Melbourne in the latter stages of the Southern Division Grand Final to win eventually by three goals to one at Olympic Park on Sunday night.

South Melbourne came out very pumped up and took a deserved early lead through Adam Poole, which it held until the interval.

The turning point in the match came

ten minutes into the second half when South Melbourne keeper Milan Udvarac was sent off after apparently making contact with Steve Martin following a corner kick. Patrick Kisnobo went into goal and his first job was to face a penalty kick but Mathew Nikolic drove it wide.

Thereafter the balance swung Carlton's way and Daniel Vasilevski latched on to a through ball to equalise.

Nikolic made amends for his penalty miss with about ten minutes left to play when Carlton just beat the offside flag and after the cross had been headed into the

goal area, Nikolic put it away.

As South Melbourne's gallant ten men tried to salvage something from the game, Vasilevski once again read a through ball perfectly to score the third goal for Carlton.

For Jeff Oliver, who is coaching Heidelberg, working with the Carlton keepers and assisting with the first team when necessary, as well as looking after the youth team, this was a fitting reward.

He was honest enough to admit that Carlton had not played

as well as it had done at times earlier in the season, but as he says.

"To go through the season undefeated, it would have been very disappointing not to have won the final. But you have to do it on the day". And Carlton did.

Next week it will face Parramatta Power in the Inter-Divisional Play-off with the details yet to be finalised at time of writing.

South Melbourne under John Kennedy certainly made Carlton work for its victory and also deserves great credit

for reaching the final.

I'd like to thank all the Southern Division players for the entertainment they have given and the skills they have shown this season, and the club contacts who have provided me with the information on which the column is based.

I hope the players will go on to the highest possible levels in senior soccer. A word too for the young referees who have officiated at games this season, who also should go far in the game as a result of the grounding they have received under the careful scrutiny of the match inspectors in the NYL.

Finally to all the club officials, coaches, managers, physios and parents who have made the sacrifices so that the youngsters could make their start in national level soccer, my thanks and admiration for a job well done.

CARLTON 3

Daniel Vasilevski 2, Mathew Nikolic

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

Adam Poole

NB: The National Youth Grand Final will be played after the NSL Preliminary Final game in Wollongong.

Parramatta Power v Carlton
Branden Park
Sunday 4 June 6.15pm

Leaders in SA strengthen their grip

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Adelaide Blue Eagles	15	12	1	2	41	11	30	37
Modbury	15	11	0	4	24	17	7	33
Croydon Kings	15	10	0	5	36	18	18	30
Port Lion	15	9	1	5	28	16	12	28
Campbelltown City	15	7	1	7	19	23	-4	22
Elizabeth City	15	6	3	6	23	21	2	21
Adelaide City	15	5	4	6	24	24	0	19
Raiders	15	6	0	9	19	23	-4	18
Cumberland United	15	4	2	9	14	26	-12	14
White City Warriors	15	4	1	10	8	21	-13	13
Metro Stars	15	3	4	8	16	31	-15	13
West Torrens Birkalla	15	2	5	8	12	31	-19	11

STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic FC	15	11	3	0	35	10	25	36
Para Hills Knights	15	8	4	3	35	17	18	28
Port Pirie City	15	8	4	3	33	21	12	28
Northern Demons	15	7	4	4	32	22	10	25
Western Strikers	15	6	7	2	29	23	6	25
Salisbury United	15	8	1	6	27	27	1	25
Adelaide Cobras	15	7	2	6	27	25	2	23
Noarlunga United	15	7	1	7	25	28	-1	22
Enfield City	15	3	5	7	27	32	-5	14
Adelaide Hills	15	3	3	9	22	37	-15	12
Seaford	15	2	1	12	12	40	-28	7
Panthers	15	1	1	13	14	43	-29	4

By Donald Campbell and Margaret Bowden

In a round played in semi-arctic conditions, the Blue Eagles strengthened their grip at the top of the table, downing Raiders as both Modbury Jets and Croydon Kings stumbled, losing to Port Lion and Metro Stars respectively.

Port Lion, in fourth spot, is now only 2 points behind the Kings, while Metro's win gave them an invaluable 3 points, lifting them 2 points clear of Birkalla at the foot of the table.

Elizabeth Rams' scoreless draw with Cumberland Foxes saw them drop out of the top five, to be replaced by Campbelltown Red Devils who had a satisfying win over White City Warriors. Birkalla also picked up a rare point against seventh placed Adelaide City in the second nil all draw of the round.

This sets up an exciting final 7 rounds, with only 3 points separating the 4 bottom sides - Birkalla, Metro Stars, White City and Cumberland.

Blue Eagles 'terrible twosome' Michael Brooks and Frank Sergi did it again as the League leaders sank Raiders 2-0 at home, keeping Raiders in 5th bottom place. Brooks knocked in his 20th goal of the season, then Sergi scored the second for the unstoppable boys in blue. Next week's meeting with out of sorts Croydon should be a classic.

Port Lion Pirates launched their surprise 3-0 daylight raid on Modbury, taking advantage of the windy conditions to down the Jets. The Jets, accustomed to playing night games, and without star playmaker Dwayne Dobson, were caught out early in the

game. Joe Calabria's sizzling left footer dipped wickedly in the wind, dropping in under the bar. Port's second shot from Dino Bordillo deflected in off Jets' full back Darren Turner. Steve DeGiovanniello then unleashed a thunderbolt that swerved in with the wind midway into the second half.

There was fun and games in the upset of the round, as Croydon went down sensationally 0-1 at home to struggling Metro Stars. Referee Matthew Cream disallowed a goal for the home side almost on the final whistle, then red carded would-be scorer Craig Woods for punching the ball away. Metros, strengthened by Adelaide City's Carlo Talladira, scored the winner in the second half when Vince Schmitz's shot took a deflection and rebounded into the goal.

Traditional rivals Elizabeth City and Cumberland Foxes slogged out a very

even, workman-like 0-0 draw up at Ramsay Park. Both keepers, the Rams' Frank Blazevec and the Foxes' ex-Ram Matthew Peace, were outstanding. Low light was Cumberland's Matt Villios suffering a broken ankle only 20 minutes into the match.

In a game played in heavy mud, Campbelltown City's Japanese midfielder Udagawa drifted in at the back post to score the only goal 20 minutes from full time, sending White City deeper into the relegation zone.

Birkalla took the game up to Adelaide City at Camden, but despite winning 12 corners, they could not put the ball into the net. The 0-0 draw gave the home team a very valuable point, but they are still in bottom place, 2 points adrift of Metro Stars and White City.

There is no stopping Olympic FC in the State League this season. The surrogate West Adelaide (Sharks) League leaders decimated bottom side Panthers 5-0.

Para Hills Knights reclaimed second spot with an inspired 3-1 win over Seaford, while Northern Demons' 2-2 draw with Adelaide Hills was enough to jump into fourth spot, ahead of Salisbury United who went down 2-3 to the inconsistent Cobras. Western Strikers, getting stronger every week, moved into fifth place with a 3-1 win over Enfield, while Noarlunga Bulldogs continued their excellent home form to force a 3-3 draw with Port Pirie City.

The clash between Olympic and Panthers saw former West Adelaide NSL stars Branko Milosevic (Olympic) and Raymond Blair (Panthers) take to the pitch, but Blair's team stood no chance. Spatharos was the hero for Olympic again, scoring three goals. Sasha Lalic and Nick Tsoukalas put away Olympic's other two goals.

Harry Bell recorded his first win as coach of Para Hills Knights, giving notice that the Knights are back in the title race with a convincing win over Seaford. Bell's son Jamie scored the Knights' first goal. Mulady and Wood also made their 'Mark'

for the Knights. Regular scorer S. Huybrechts recorded Seaford's lone goal of the game.

Northern Demons, coming off a five nil win last week, were held to a draw by the determined Hills Hawks. Wanting maximum returns for the petrol they used getting to Port Pirie, Simon Wegener put the Hills two nil up in the first half, scoring one from the penalty spot and finishing a slick build up from Daryl Harvey and Justin Gallagher for the second.

Demons came out revamped in the second half, Sam Salvemini and M. Bellifemini pouncing on two defensive errors in the space of five minutes to level.

Cobras bounced back from two losses to defeat Salisbury in a tough match played gale-force wins and hail. Back to full strength with super-striker Nick Konstandopoulos in the team, Cobras looked confident.

Konstandopoulos didn't disappoint, scoring two goals for the home side, but Salisbury made life very difficult. Elliott and Robson struck back for Salisbury, but Skoumbros added a third to give the home side the points.

Whatever Nick Pantaras is doing down at Western Strikers seems to be working. His young side travelled to Enfield and went home with the points. The notorious Enfield pitch had no effect on the visitors, Leonardi, Chrisohidis and Barbier finding the net.

Mark Abraham scored the only goal for Enfield in a game ruined by the wild weather.

After a slow start, eighth placed Noarlunga Bulldogs bit a chunk out of third placed Port Pirie City down at Wilf Taylor Reserve. Port Pirie scored early through John Christopoulos, but big Mark Donk levelled for the Bulldogs. Corrieri struck Pirie's second just before the break, and Christopoulos got the third two minutes into the second half.

Pirie seemed to relax and the Bulldogs made them pay. Phil Robertson scored from the penalty spot, then Adam Longshaw put away the equaliser fifteen minutes from time.

Swan IC's unbeaten run ends in WA

By Mike Hennessey

The evening kick-off of the Perth Glory game enabled the normal round of Cellular One Premier League fixtures to be played with crucial games at both ends of the league table.

At the top end leaders Swan IC hosted second-placed Fremantle City at the Italian Club.

With five first team players out through injury or suspension it was not surprising that Swan lost their unbeaten record going down 2-1.

The game was a scrappy affair that either side could have won.

The first half was brightened by two fine goals. The first, in the 13th minute came from Gary Faria who skillfully beat his opponent before slotting the ball home past a help-

less Corey Hugo.

Swan's reply came in the 23rd minute. A fierce drive from Damian Scali rocketed into the top corner of the net.

It was 1-1 at half-time the game had a similar pattern in the second half. Fremantle scored their winner early on when Faria claimed his second of the match when he hit the ball home in a goalmouth scramble.

Swan applied pressure towards the end of the game but it was Fremantle who took the three points to close the gap to one point at the top of the table.

At the bottom end Bayswater City Panthers did what Swan IC were unable to do.

They scored both goals late in the game through Dom Ando and Sal Marrapodi to record a 2-1 win over

Rockingham City who now are firmly anchored at the bottom of the league table.

Perth, too, came back in the second half. 2-0 against Sorrento at Dorrien Gardens they drew 2-2 with goals by Vince Tana and Mark Pottier to equal those scored by Jared Love and Ross Greer.

In other Saturday games Inglewood United and Floreat Athena both recorded 3-0 wins over their opponents, ECU Joondalup and Ashfield-Bunbury respectively.

CELLULAR ONE

PREMIER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE:
Rockingham City 1
Ashfield/Bunbury 0
ECU Joondalup 0
Sorrento 2
Fremantle City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Swan IC	8	6	1	1	22	7	15	19
Fremantle City	8	6	0	2	21	12	9	18
Ashfield/Bunbury	8	5	0	3	18	11	7	15
Inglewood United	8	4	1	3	15	7	8	13
ECU Joondalup	8	4	1	3	16	13	3	13
Sorrento	8	4	1	3	18	19	-1	13
Perth SC	8	3	3	2	16	10	6	12
Western Knights	7	4	0	3	13	14	-1	12
Cockburn City	7	3	0	4	12	14	-2	9
Bayswater City Panthers	8	2	1	5	9	20	-11	7
Floreat Athena	8	2	0	6	13	23	-10	6
Rockingham City	8	0	0	8	8	31	-23	0

Info provided by - Official Soccer West Coast Web Site <http://swc.oia.com.au>

Macarthur 2 Coasties 1

Wanted: one striker, there are plenty of opportunities, must convert into goals. Apply Central Coast Coasties!

That sums up another Coasties' loss - and their season.

On a bitterly cold Saturday night at Campbelltown the trip home for the Coasties would have been even colder. Despite dominating for long periods of the match the Coasties were again unable to score - their lone goal came from an own goal and they also missed a penalty.

To their credit Macarthur persisted with quick counter attacks and came away with all three points.

The Coasties started off like a house on fire, determined to put last week's debacle against Bonnyrigg out of their minds. After ten minutes Peter Ritchie made a break down the right, put over a low cross and in attempting to clear a defender sliced the ball into the net for an early lead to the visitors.

Ten minutes later Coasties' Shane Knight broke down the left, leaving the defence stranded and faced with only the 'keeper in front of him. Knight was brought down by Peter Munsie in the Macarthur goal. Stuart Sontag stepped up for the resultant penalty kick and shot over the bar.

Coasties kept attacking and Adam Peatey and Paul Roberts both saw shots fly wide of the goal.

Macarthur earned a free kick just outside of the penalty area and the ball flew across to the far side of the goal but an unmasked Tony Judge fired it into the side netting.

The home team had their best period of the match and after 35 minutes Matthew O'Shea finished a good move with a great low drive that ended up inside the far post.

The Rams continued to attack until the half time break but Gary Meier was again in great form in the Coasties goal and brought off a couple of good saves.

The second half started on more

equal terms with Eric Williams and Ben Willard going close for Macarthur while Ritchie and Peatey both saw shots go wide for the Coasties.

Nathan Byrn and Peter Preston replaced Roberts and Sontag and the Coasties started to gain the ascendancy, but poor finishing saw good approach and opportunities go begging.

In the last five minutes both goalkeepers were brought into the action. Preston forced Munsie to tip a vicious drive over the bar and soon after Byrn brought out a good save from the Rams' keeper.

Ritchie, Peatey and Byrn combined brilliantly to put Knight in perfect position but with the goal at his mercy Munsie saw the ball go well over the bar.

The Rams counter-attacked and Adrian Macerola beat the flagging Coasties defence but Meier brought off save of the match to prevent a certain goal. From the clearance the ball found O'Shea and another great save by Meier but this time he could only deflect the ball to an unmarked Ryan Jones who had a tap in for the winning goal in almost his first touch of the match.

Not for the first time this year the Coasties lost a game they should have won but Macarthur never stopped trying and came up with what some people would say was a surprise win.

But goals win matches not how long you play with the ball.

MACARTHUR RAMS: Munsie, Goodfellow, Willard, Bourke, O'Shea, Issa (Macerola), Williams (Jones), Cummins, McAusland, Bishop, Judge.

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES: Meier, Matthews, Steele, Peatey, Knight, Roberts (Byrn), Ritchie, Marshall, Daley (Marshall), Sontag (Preston), Hokin.

Goals:

Macarthur: O'Shea 34, Jones 89.
Coasties: Own goal.

Super league summary

In a weekend of freezing conditions many NSW Super League sides were frozen to their spots in the league too.

Blacktown, Bonnyrigg and St George all recorded wins, while 4th and 5th placed Leichhardt and Parramatta Eagles played out a 1-1 draw at Lambert Park.

In that crucial game, both sides needed a win to remain in contention for the vital third place on the table, but despite an open game which provided plenty of chances, the points were shared with each side scoring within two minutes of the kick-off for the second stanza.

At Bonnyrigg on Saturday, the Sharks were certainly without any bite as they lost in yet another demolition by the Bonnyrigg side, with a hat trick to Leigh Gunn and goals to David Reid and Javier Mancino.

Despite the 5-0 scoreline, Sutherland fought back but were without luck and had no answer to the pace of Bonnyrigg's forward line.

Penrith Panthers continued their improving form with a 3-1 victory over Eastern Suburbs at Andrews Road Field, Penrith, in what was actually an away game for Penrith.

Blacktown just escaped from Henson Park with a goal in their favour through the efforts of Damien Brown in the 85th minute. The first half of play was an even affair, although Canterbury Marrickville should have been up by one at the break.

In the 37th minute Adrian Vizzari was

Super League top scorers	
MARK HAGGER	BLACKTOWN 20
COLIN LUFT	BONNYRIGG 18
JOHNNY GHISIO	BONNYRIGG 16
STEVE KARAVATAKIS	LEICHARDT 16
JIMMY ASCHNER	EASTS 15
ADAM ANDERSON	PARRAMATTA 15
MATTHEW BORG	FAIRFIELD 14

brought down in the area by Blacktown keeper Fernando Greco. Jim Nikas stepped up to take the spot kick and although he placed it well, Greco made up for his misdemeanor, diving low and to his left to push the ball out for a corner.

In the second half Blacktown began to push harder for the winner and Canterbury spent most of the half pegged back in their own third of the field, looking for opportunities on the counter attack.

With Blacktown failing time and time again to capitalise on their wealth of possession it looked as though the game may have ended in a draw until Brown popped up when needed most.

Fairfield's bubble was burst by one lone strike by St George's Jim Bakis at St George Stadium, ending their recent winning streak; while Manly Warringah lost at home to Bankstown City.

The Coasties Kids

By Ray Sandell.

Readers of Inside Soccer would have noticed regular articles on the Central Coast Coasties and its senior playing staff and management.

There is another part of the club, that is just as important, but gets very little publicity. The Under 11 and Under 12 Super Cadet League teams: The Coasties Kids.

In 1999 the NSW Soccer Federation introduced a competition for Under 11 and Under 12 teams in addition to their long running 13 to 16 years old Youth Leagues.

They were inundated with applications and named the competitions the Cadet Leagues. The first year proved to be an outstanding success.

This season they formed a Cadet Super League and a Division 1 Cadet League. The Cadet Super League involves all NSW based National League Clubs and all Super League Clubs - a truly elite competition. At the time of going to press the Coasties Under 11 team is in equal sixth position whilst the Under 12 team is in second place, five points behind the equal leaders Canterbury and Blacktown with a game in hand.

It is the Under 12 side (above) who, along with the senior Under 21 team, is making the Central Coast soccer fraternity sit up and take notice. Unbeaten with seven wins and three draws in ten matches they are playing a brand of soccer worthy of teams of a much higher age.

Coach Gary Rafti, who also coached last year's Under 11s, is a quietly spoken coach, who by his own admittance, is still learning what life in the more serious competitions is all about. Not for him the screaming, sometimes blasphemous, tirades at his charges - he targets each boy as an individual within the team structure.

He has gained the respect of each play-

er, parent and club committee member and his methods have obviously been successful - last year his then Under 11 boys made the semi-finals at their first attempt at the big time and look like repeating that effort this year.

He is greatly assisted by team manager Mark Imberger who is as efficient as they come and appears to have the same temperament and attitude as his coach - the boys are there to learn and be part of a team.

They look, they listen, they train hard and they play damn well!

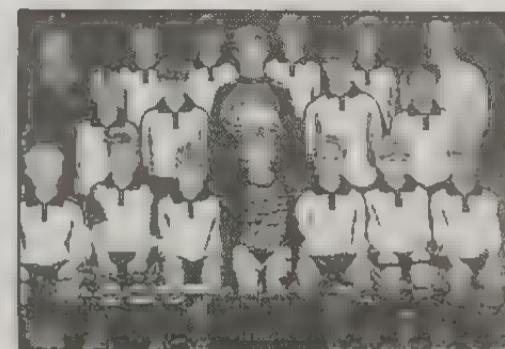
When asked for his opinions of his best players Rafti said: "There really aren't any stars. Naturally, there are a few of the boys that show a little more talent than others but generally they are a great bunch of boys who get on well and have the will and determination to be successful."

"The attack works well as a team. The midfield is very competitive and are a very tight unit whilst the defence recovers quickly and their ball distribution is excellent. Our two goalkeepers are as safe as houses with little to pick between them."

"Most importantly the team has great support from the parents who all appreciate each boy's ability. All this makes for a successful team and we have just that."

The Under 12 squad is: Bryce Arnall, Nathan Crowson, Adin Edwards, Scott Imberger, Joshua James, Aaron McLoughlin, Lee McParland, Luke McWade, Andrew Myles, Vorn O'Riordan, Samuel Rafti, Jon Redfern, Nathan Smith, Blake Vanderwoud, Mark Vuko, Nathan Young.

*Nathan Smith, Jon Redfern, Andrew Myles, Adin Edwards and Luke McWade have been selected in the Sydney Metropolitan School rep team and Aaron McLoughlin in the Catholic School rep team - congratulations to all of you.



SUPER SOCCER ON THE COAST!

PLUM PARK, LISAROW

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

CENTRAL COAST

COASTIES

V

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE
BERRIES

THE LOSER LOOKS LIKE MISSING OUT
ON THE FINAL FIVE. WHO WILL IT BE?

FIRST GRADE 6.00PM/UNDER 21 4.00PM/UNDER 18 2.00PM

ADULTS \$10 - CONCESSION/STUDENTS \$5

WE DO NOT CHARGE FOR KIDS UNDER 16

Entertaining tussle at Lambert Park

LEICHHARDT TIGERS 1
Macolino 49
PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1
Joseski 48

Sunday afternoon at Lambert Park, Sydney.



By Jeremy Inson

Two points were all that separated the teams at the start of the day. However, whilst both sides were secure in their play-off berths, a win was essential in their attempts to catch up to the runaway top pair of Bonnyrigg and Blacktown, the former celebrating a thumping 5-0 victory over Sutherland Sharks the previous evening.

The close proximity of the winter months was reflected in the swirling wind inside the ground, but far from reducing the match to a long ball battle, it is a credit to both teams that they were able to put on an entertaining spectacle, despite the conditions.

Both teams realised the importance of the match and sought to take the game to the opposition from the first whistle. Confusion in the Leichhardt defence presented an early chance for Adam Anderson who fired wide, whilst at the other end a rasping drive from Jason Lal confirmed both teams' intention to end the day with all three points.

A battle between little and large soon emerged down the Tiger's left hand side. Leichhardt's Yane Talcevski and Steve Karavataki sought to find a way past Parramatta's Stephen Chipp, who himself was making surging runs down the Eagles' right wing.

On two occasions the pacey pair created chances in the first period. A pull back from Karavataki allowed ex-King Fabio Macolino to squeeze off a shot, whilst a 27th minute cross from Talcevski was almost turned into his own net by Daniel Borg.

Across the field Jason Lal was creating problems and, after 30 minutes, he almost put Karavataki in at the near post, but Jason Holmes easily held his header.

Parramatta Eagles also had their moments. Malcolm Meilak's sharp turn on the edge of the penalty area was let down by a poor shot and he went close two minutes from half time with a header from a Savo Boskovski corner.

Neither team let the pace drop at opening of the second period. In their first serious attack Parramatta took the lead. A left wing Meilak cross found its way into the area and onto the head of Niko Joseski, who claimed his tenth goal of the season with a looping header over Shaun Woods.

The old adage that a team is at its most vulnerable after they have scored was once again

shown to be correct. A burst down the right wing took James Stubbs-Mills to the bye-line. He had time to pick out his fellow central midfielder, Macolino, who fired low into the net.

The roles were almost reversed a few minutes later. This time Macolino's cross from the left was chested by Lal into Stubbs-Mills' path but he could only blast over from the edge of the penalty area.

Following this both teams came again, sensing that there were chances to be had. Parramatta's heroes from the previous weekend almost came good again when Adam Anderson headed over a Tony Mittiga cross. A few moments later Tom Bazdaric shot wide after a goalmouth scramble following Savo Boskovski's corner.

A slightly off-key Karavataki chipped wide after further good work from Stubbs-Mills. Sixteen goal Karavataki will be disappointed with his performance. Whilst he was sharp and led the team well with his prompting and proddings, he lacked his usual punch in attack.

It will be especially sickening considering Marconi coach Eddie Krnecic was watching from the stands.

Nevertheless Karavataki persistence down the left flank almost put in Lal, but once again he shot wide. Joe Bruni then shot over after cutting in from the Tigers' right flank and Lal the saw a header saved by Holmes. Michael Galluzzo and Talcevski also went close before the final whistle.

Both sides will feel that a draw is a fair result. Unfortunately those two dropped points, allied to a St George victory over Fairfield Bulls, will not aid their assaults on the upper reaches of the play off places.

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Shaun Woods, Fabio Macolino, Andrew Dowling, Michael Galluzzo, James Stubbs-Mills, Joe Bruni (Adioski 80), Steve Karavataki, Andrew Nicol, Jason Lal, Anthony Tesoro, Yane Talcevski, Parramatta Eagles:

PARRAMATTAEAGLES: Jason Holmes, Geoff Wyer, Malcolm Meilak, Mark Reveley, Tom Bazdaric, Adam Anderson, Tony Mittiga, Niko Joseski (Giraldo 85), Stephen Chipp (Delicata 67), Savo Boskovski (Trpkoski 80), Daniel Borg

Yellows:

Tigers: Andrew Dowling 25

Best Players:

3. JASON LAL (TIGERS)
2. Tony Mittiga (Eagles)
1. Fabio Macolino (Eagles)

Super League Tables

FIRST GRADE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	20	14	3	3	56	18	38	45
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	21	15	0	6	61	37	24	45
St George Saints	20	12	3	5	38	22	16	39
Leichhardt Tigers	20	11	4	5	42	30	12	37
Parramatta Eagles	21	8	11	2	42	28	14	35
Fairfield Bulls	21	9	3	9	38	34	4	30
Bankstown City Lions	21	8	5	8	30	28	2	29
Central Coast Coasties	20	7	6	7	32	29	3	27
Canterbury Marrickville	21	8	1	12	29	45	-16	25
Macarthur Rams	21	5	7	9	25	31	-6	22
Eastern Subs Wanderers	21	7	1	13	35	49	-14	22
Penrith Panthers	20	6	3	11	26	47	-21	21
Sutherland Sharks	21	4	3	14	23	57	-34	15
Manly Warringah Dolphins	20	2	6	12	20	42	-22	12

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	20	13	5	2	53	22	31	44
Central Coast Coasties	20	14	2	4	39	19	20	44
Penrith Panthers	20	11	2	7	38	26	12	35
Leichhardt Tigers	20	10	3	7	41	31	10	33
Parramatta Eagles	21	8	6	7	30	27	3	30
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	21	7	5	9	36	35	1	26
Manly Warringah Dolphins	20	8	2	10	37	41	-4	26
Sutherland Sharks	21	7	5	9	35	44	-9	26
Eastern Subs Wanderers	21	7	5	9	30	40	-10	26
St George Saints	20	7	4	9	31	37	-6	25
Canterbury Marrickville	21	7	4	10	31	40	-9	25
Macarthur Rams	21	7	3	11	26	42	-16	24
Fairfield Bulls	21	6	5	10	33	42	-9	23
Bankstown City Lions	21	4	5	12	35	49	-14	17

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Fairfield Bulls	21	16	1	4	46	22	23	49
Leichhardt Tigers	20	15	2	3	48	24	24	47
Parramatta Eagles	21	14	3	4	65	25	30	45
Blacktown City Demons	20	11	7	2	38	17	19	40
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	21	9	5	7	34	30	4	32
Central Coast Coasties	20	9	4	7	41	25	16	31
Sutherland Sharks	21	8	5	8	32	30	2	29
Macarthur Rams	21	7	7	7	30	32	-2	28
Penrith Panthers	20	6	8	6	39	28	11	26
Eastern Subs Wanderers	21	6	5	10	31	52	-21	23
Bankstown City Lions	21	6	3	12	27	40	-13	21
Manly Warringah Dolphins	20	4	2	14	19	38	-19	14
St George Saints	20	3+	5	12	23	57	-34	14
Canterbury Marrickville	21	0	3	18	13	53	-40	3

SUPER LEAGUE ROUND TWENTY TWO

Official clothing supplier to the NSW Soccer Federation



Saturday 3 June

Central Coast v Canterbury Marrickville - Plum Park

Games 6.00pm (1st grade) - 4.00pm (21s) - 2.00pm (18s)

Sutherland Sharks v Macarthur Rams - Seymour Shaw

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Blacktown City v Parramatta Eagles - Gabbie Stadium

Games 6.00pm (1st grade) - 4.00pm (21s) - 2.00pm (18s)

Sunday 4 June

Eastern Suburbs v St George Saints - St George Stadium

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Fairfield Bulls v Bonnyrigg White Eagles - Nineveh Field

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Bankstown City Lions v Penrith Panthers - Jensen Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Manly Warringah v Leichhardt Tigers - Cromer Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s).

Catch all the latest news on football in NSW in Super Soccer OUT 1 June!

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Inside Soccer

DIVISION 1: FIRST GRADE											DIVISION 4: FIRST GRADE											SUPER YOUTH - U13															
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts														
Dulwich Hill	13	10	3	0	26	8	18	33	Colo Colo	12	5	4	3	35	23	12	19	Sutherland Sharks	13	12	1	0	40	7	33	37											
Rockdale City Suns	13	8	1	4	28	18	10	25	Trasandinos	11	6	1	4	23	37	-14	19	Blacktown City Demons	13	12	1	0	41	9	32	37											
Hajduk Wanderers	13	8	1	4	22	13	9	25	The Wanderers	12	5	3	4	28	24	4	18	Parramatta Eagles	13	11	2	0	60	9	51	35											
AC United	13	7	2	4	22	14	8	23	Camden Tigers	12	5	2	5	21	16	5	17	Marconi Stallions	13	9	1	3	33	14	19	28											
M.S.C. Liverpool	13	5	6	2	17	13	4	21	Prospect United	12	4	3	5	21	22	-1	15	Bankstown City	13	7	3	3	27	11	16	24											
Stanmore Hawks	12	4	4	4	15	16	-1	16	Parramatta City	13	4	1	8	31	30	1	13	Northern Spirit	12	7	2	3	37	19	18	23											
Fraser Park	13	3	6	4	24	19	5	15	Prairiewood United	13	2	2	9	18	35	-17	8	Newcastle Breakers	12	7	2	3	23	13	10	23											
Illawarra Lions	13	4	3	6	16	19	-3	15	Liverpool City	13	0	0	13	11	66	-55	0	Sydney Olympic	13	6	3	4	35	27	8	21											
Auburn United	13	4	3	6	20	27	-7	15									Leichhardt Tigers	13	6	2	5	29	26	3	20												
Hurstville City	13	3	5	5	17	20	-3	14									Wollongong Wolves	12	5	3	4	25	21	4	18												
Bathurst '75	13	2	3	8	17	38	-21	9									Macarthur Rams	13	4	4	5	21	15	6	16												
Ryde City Gunners	12	0	1	11	11	30	-19	1									Fairfield Bulls	13	4	2	7	35	47	-12	14												
DIVISION 1: U21's																																					
Hajduk Wanderers	13	8	5	0	42	6	36	29	United Eagles	12	9	2	1	33	10	23	29	Sydney United	13	4	1	8	19	17	2	13											
AC United	13	8	3	2	41	12	29	27	Kellyville Kolts	11	8	1	2	30	9	21	25	Penrith Panthers	13	4	1	8	19	33	-14	13											
Fraser Park	13	6	5	2	29	17	12	23	Hawkesbury City	12	7	1	4	45	28	17	22	Manly Warringah Dolphins	13	3	2	8	15	26	-11	11											
Dulwich Hill	13	7	1	5	36	22	14	22	Granville Greenisland	11	7	0	4	24	24	0	21	Central Coast Coasties	13	3	1	9	■	28	-19	10											
Ryde City Gunners	12	7	1	4	22	15	7	22	Eastern Creek Pioneers	9	5	0	4	20	15	5	15	St George	13	3	1	9	■	29	-20	10											
M.S.C. Liverpool	13	5	5	3	20	16	4	20	Marrickville	11	4	3	4	19	19	0	15	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	12	2	2	6	17	32	-15	8											
Stanmore Hawks	12	4	4	4	26	13	13	16	Auburn Star	11	4	3	4	22	27	-5	15	Eastern Suburbs Wanderers	13	2	0	1	9	47	-38	6											
Hurstville City	13	4	4	5	24	15	9	16	Springwood	12	3	2	7	22	24	-2	11	Canterbury Marrickville	13	0	0	13	2	75	-73	0											
Auburn United	13	5	1	7	19	34	-15	16	Sporting SCC	11	3	0	8	16	31	-15	9																				
Bathurst '75	13	3	4	6	21	29	-8	13	CSI Schofields	11	3	0	8	14	34	-20	9																				
Rockdale City Suns	13	3	1	9	13	33	-20	10	Maroubra United	11	0	1	10	14	49	-35	1																				
Illawarra Lions	13	0	0	13	6	87	-81	0																													
DIVISION 1: U18's											DIVISION 4: RESERVES											SUPER YOUTH - U14															
M.S.C. Liverpool	13	9	2	2	40	12	28	29	United Eagles	13	11	0	2	42	13	29	33	Northern Spirit	12	12	0	0	36	0	36	36											
AC United	13	8	4	1	37	14	23	28	Kellyville Kolts	11	8	1	2	30	9	21	25	Blacktown City Demons	13	11	1	1	39	5	34	34											
Hajduk Wanderers	13	8	3	2	25	11	14	27	Hawkesbury City	12	7	1	4	35	22	13	22	Marconi Stallions	13	9	3	1	32	9	23	30											
Ryde City Gunners	12	8	1	3	37	17	20	25	Eastern Creek Pioneers	11	7	0	4	24	24	0	21	Sydney Olympic	13	9	3	1	27	14	13	30											
Stanmore Hawks	12	7	3	2	28	17	21	24	Marrickville	11	4	3	4	15	24	-9	15	Leichhardt Tigers	13	9	1	3	30	11	19	28											
Rockdale City Suns	13	7	3	3	26	19	7	24	Auburn Star	11	4	3	4	22	27	-5	15	Wollongong Wolves	12	8	2	2	36	11	25	26											
Dulwich Hill	13	6	0	7	15	26	-11	18	Springwood	12	6	2	4	18	11	7	20	Newcastle Breakers	12	7	2	3	21	9	12	23											
Bathurst '75	13	4	2	7	29	25	4	14	Sporting SCC	11	4	3	4	22	27	-5	15	Sydney United	13	6	3	4	14	14	0	21											
Hurstville City	13	4	1	8	13	25	-12	13	CSI Schofields	11	3	0	8	14	34	-20	9	Bankstown City	13	7	2	4	30	15	15	23											

YOUTH DIV. 1 - U13	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Southern Branch	14	12	0	2	62	6	56 36
Rockdale City Suns	13	7	3	3	29	12	17 24
AC United	12	8	0	4	25	13	12 24
Hills United	13	7	2	4	24	10	14 23
Ryde City	12	7	2	3	33	22	11 23
Illawarra Lions	12	7	2	3	28	22	6 23
Blacktown Association	12	7	1	4	20	14	6 22
Hajduk Wanderers	12	6	1	5	16	15	1 19
Nepean Association	12	3	0	9	7	12	9 26
Stanmore Hawks	13	1	2	10	15	50	-35 5
Canterbury Association	12	1	2	9	11	57	-46 5
Mt Pritchard	13	1	1	11	9	39	-30 4
YOUTH DIV. 1 - U14	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Illawarra Lions	12	9	1	2	27	8	19 28
Hajduk Wanderers	12	8	2	2	19	10	9 26
Blacktown Association	12	7	0	5	31	17	14 21
Southern Branch	14	7	2	5	29	18	11 23
Nepean Association	12	7	2	3	20	8	12 23
Hills United	13	7	2	4	22	13	9 23
Ryde City	12	5	3	4	18	20	-2 18
AC United	12	4	4	4	18	18	0 16
Mt Pritchard	13	4	3	6	14	20	-6 15
Canterbury Association	12	2	2	8	8	23	-15 8
Rockdale City Suns	13	2	2	9	13	41	-28 8
Stanmore Hawks	13	0	3	10	9	32	-23 3
YOUTH DIV. 1 - U15	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Southern Branch	14	8	6	0	32	15	17 30
Ryde City	12	9	2	1	28	11	17 29
AC United	12	7	1	4	33	21	12 22
Illawarra Lions	12	6	4	2	19	12	7 22
Mt Pritchard	13	6	1	6	15	16	-1 19
Stanmore Hawks	13	5	1	7	17	21	-4 16
Hajduk Wanderers	12	4	5	3	20	14	6 17
Canterbury Association	12	4	2	6	14	22	-8 14
Rockdale City Suns	13	3	4	6	15	27	-12 13
Blacktown Association	12	2	5	5	14	19	-5 11
Hills United	13	1	4	8	9	22	-13 7
Nepean Association	12	1	3	8	12	28	-16 8
YOUTH DIV. 1 - U16	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Southern Branch	14	9	3	2	28	8	20 30
Hajduk Wanderers	12	10	0	2	25	9	16 30
Illawarra Lions	12	9	2	1	30	11	19 29
AC United	11	■	2	1	21	5	16 26
Blacktown Association	12	8	0	4	29	13	16 24
Ryde City	12	4	2	6	19	21	-2 14
Mt Pritchard	13	4	1	8	21	22	-1 13
Nepean Association	12	3	4	5	14	25	-11 13
Hills United	13	4	2	7	19	18	1 14
Stanmore Hawks	12	2	5	5	14	19	-5 11
Canterbury Association	12	1	1	10	8	37	-29 4
Rockdale City Suns	13	1	0	12	10	50	-40 3
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U13	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Central Coast Lakers	10	8	2	0	39	4	35 26
Camden Tigers	10	7	3	0	37	9	28 24
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	9	6	2	1	22	10	12 20
CSI Schofields	10	6	0	4	30	13	17 18
Hawkesbury City	10	4	0	6	18	18	0 12
M.S.C. Liverpool	9	3	2	4	22	14	8 11
Parramatta City	9	2	3	4	12	21	-9 9
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	10	2	2	5	13	28	-15 8
Granville Association	11	2	1	8	10	44	-34 7
Hurstville City	10	1	1	8	11	53	-42 4
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U14	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Camden Tigers	10	9	1	0	27	1	26 28
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	10	7	2	1	36	6	30 23
Central Coast Lakers	10	5	2	3	28	10	18 17
Hawkesbury City	10	6	1	3	23	15	8 19
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	9	5	2	2	35	11	24 17
M.S.C. Liverpool	9	3	1	5	19	18	1 10
CSI Schofields	10	2	2	6	10	18	-8 8
Granville Association	11	2	2	7	13	41	-28 8
Parramatta City	9	1	2	6	6	30	-24 5
Hurstville City	10	1	1	8	6	53	-47 4
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U15	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Granville Association	11	9	2	0	31	15	16 29
Central Coast Lakers	10	8	1	1	29	11	18 25
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	10	5	0	5	22	19	3 15
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	9	4	3	2	19	18	1 15
CSI Schofields	10	4	1	5	19	21	-2 13
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	9	4	1	4	21	11	10 13
Hawkesbury City	10	3	2	5	24	26	-2 11
Camden Tigers	10	3	2	5	13	20	-7 11
Hurstville City	10	2	0	8	11	30	-19 6
Parramatta City	9	1	0	8	6	26	-18 3
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U16	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Parramatta City	9	9	0	0	38	4	34 27
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	9	7	1	1	25	2	23 22
Central Coast Lakers	10	5	2	3	18	14	4 17
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	10	5	3	2	13	6	7 18
Hawkesbury City	10	5	2	3	18	11	7 17
Camden Tigers	10	3	2	5	15	16	1 11
Granville Association	11	3	2	6	12	20	-8 11
CSI Schofields	10	0	7	3	10	20	-10 7
M.S.C. Liverpool	9	1	2	6	3	19	-16 5
Hurstville City	10	0	1	9	6	46	-40 1

NSW RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: FIRST GRADE: Bathurst '75 4 (M Cooke 16m B Crowley 18m B Moran 38m S Mutton 65m) Fraser Park 4 (B Burrows 33/58m I De Jesus 53/55m), MSC Liverpool 0 Stanmore Hawks 0, AC United 1 (J Melisorgous 47m) Auburn United 2 (M Kadayifci 28m H Ceflik 92m), Dulwich Hill 1 (R Todovski 42m) Illawarra Lions 0, Hurstville City 1 (A Kalamvokis 75m) Hajduk Wanderers 4 (J Suzor 8m J Anderson 29m D Brown 35/72m), Ryde City Gunners 2 (R Portelli 71/89m) Rockdale City Suns 3 (S Najdoski 34m M Vuckovic 76m A McHardy 85m), Auburn United 1 (E Demir 51m) AC United 4 (own goal 33m J Melisorgous 3/35m M D'Alessandro 83m). **UNDER 21:** Bathurst '75 1 Fraser Park 4, MSC Liverpool 3 Stanmore Hawks 1, AC United 7 Auburn United 0, Dulwich Hill 8 Illawarra Lions 0, Hurstville City 1 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Ryde City Gunners 1 Rockdale City Suns 0, Auburn United 1 AC United 4. **UNDER 18:** Bathurst '75 4 Fraser Park 2, MSC Liverpool 3 Stanmore Hawks 1, AC United 0 Auburn United 0, Dulwich Hill 2 Illawarra Lions 1, Hurstville City 1 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Ryde City Gunners 3 Rockdale City Suns 1, Auburn United 1 AC United 3.

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO: FIRST GRADE: Hills United 3 Central Coast Lakers 1, Sydney University 5 Belmore Hercules 1, Hurstville ZSC 2 White City 1, Greystanes 1 Mt Pritchard 2, University of NSW 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Hakoah 7 Sydney District 1. **UNDER 21:** Hills United 2 Central Coast Lakers 0, Sydney University 6 Belmore Hercules 0, Hurstville ZSC 3 White City 1, Greystanes 0 Mt Pritchard 2, University of NSW 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 5, Hakoah 4 Sydney District 1. **UNDER 18:** Hills United 1 Central Coast Lakers 1, Sydney University 1 Belmore Hercules 1, Hurstville ZSC 5 White City 1, Greystanes 2 Mt Pritchard 1, University of NSW 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Hakoah 3 Sydney District 6.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE: FIRST GRADE: Nepean District 2 Trasandinos 1, Balmain 2 The Wanderers 0, Prairiewood United 1 Colo Colo 0, Liverpool City 3 Prospect United 4, Parramatta City 1 Holy Cross Ryde 2, Camden Tigers 0 Western Sydney Lions 1. **RESERVE GRADE:** Nepean District 5 Trasandinos 3, Balmain 4 The Wanderers 3, Prairiewood United 1 Colo Colo 4, Liverpool City 2 Prospect United 4, Parramatta City 7 Holy Cross Ryde 2, Camden Tigers 5 Western Sydney Lions 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR: FIRST GRADE, CSI: Schofields 0 Kellyville Kolts 2, Maroubra United 0 Sporting SCC 3, Granville Green Island 2 Sydney Crescent Star 0, Hawkesbury City 2 Marrickville 2, Auburn Star 1 United Eagles 1, Springwood 1 Eastern Creek Pioneers 2. **RESERVE GRADE:** CSI Schofields 2 Kellyville Kolts 1, Maroubra United 1 Sporting SCC 1, Granville Green Island 0 Sydney Crescent Star 1, Hawkesbury City 0 Marrickville 0, Auburn Star 0 United Eagles 1, Springwood 1 Eastern Creek Pioneers 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE: FIRST GRADE: Kosciusko 2 Liverpool Olympic 1, Bossey 11 Hinchinbrook Juniors 0, Petersham 2 Lithgow Workmen 1, Birrong Sports 1 UTS 9, Fairfield City 3 Western Sydney Passion 3. **RESERVE GRADE:** Kosciusko 1 Liverpool Olympic 2, Bossey 3 Hinchinbrook Juniors 0, Petersham 3 Lithgow Workmen 1, Birrong Sports 3 UTS 1, Fairfield City 7 Western Sydney Passion 0.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: Northern NSW/HAS 1 Nepean Association 2, Central Coast Lakers 1 Macarthur Rams 0, Marconi Manly Warringah Dolphins (Postponed), Gladesville Ravens 1 NSW Academy 1, Sutherland Sharks 3 Wollongong Wolves 2. **GRADE 21:** Northern NSW/HAS 4 Nepean Association 0, Central Coast Lakers 0 Macarthur Rams 1, Marconi Manly Warringah Dolphins (Postponed), Sutherland Sharks 2 Wollongong Wolves 1.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1 Bathurst City 0, CSI Schofields 1 Roselands Raptors 10, Inter Lions 0 St George Association 1. **GRADE 19:** Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 2 Bathurst City 2, CSI Schofields 0 Roselands Raptors 2, Inter Lions 0 St George Association 6.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: Macarthur Rams 0 Sutherland Sharks 0, Leichhardt Tigers 7 Canterbury Marnckville 0, St George 0 Wollongong Wolves 0, Sydney Olympic 4 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Marconi Stallions 3 Penrith Panthers 0, Blacktown City Demons 2 Central Coast Coasters 2, St George 1 Wollongong Wolves 0, Canterbury Marrickville 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: GRADE 11: CSI Schofields 1 Illawarra Lions 3, Rockdale City Suns 1 AC United 0, Parramatta City

Bill Turner Cup results

ROUND 1:

Colyton 2 Mambe Christian School 0
 Byron Bay 6 Southern Cross 1
 Merewether 2 Newcastle 1
 Warners Bay 4 Swansea 0
 Gunnedah 5 McCarthy Catholic 0
 Lyneham 2 Campbell 1
 Crookwell 3 Ginninderra 0
 Alfred Deakin 2 Queanbeyan 1
 Melrose 6 Lanyon 3
 Oak Flats 4 Kyama 3
 Keira 4 Bulli 1
 Albury 2 Murray 1
 Aldridge 8 Maryborough 1
 Nambour 7 Matthew Flinders 1
 Roma 4 Miles 1
 St Marys Toowoomba 8 St Josephs Toowoomba 0
 Brisbane State 7 Yeronga 1
 Hendra 3 St James 1
 Carmel 5 Iona 1
 Cleveland 5 Victoria Point 0
 St Francis 3 Browns Plains 2
 Helensvale 6 Aquinas 0
 Nerang 2 AB Patterson 1
 Trinity Lutheran 4 All Saints 3

Round 2:

Pennant Hills 2 The Forest 1
 Endeavour Sports 8 Kirrawee 1
 Kingsgrove 3 Hurstville Boys 2
 Waverley College 1 Trinity Grammar 0
 Canterbury Boys 3 Belmore Boys 0
 Grantham 4 Greystanes 2
 John Wycliffe 4 Cambridge Park 1
 Colo 5 Bede Polding 0
 Christ Catholic 3 Colyton 0
 Alstonville 3 Byron Bay 1
 Kingscliff 3 Murwillumbah 0
 Lismore 1 St Marys Casino 0
 Kadina 3 Trinity Lismore 2
 Catherine McCauley 4 Grafton 2
 Wingham 2 Chatham 1
 Taree 3 Forster 2
 Port Macquarie 7 St Josephs 1
 Wauchope 4 Westport 1
 St Josephs Lochinvar 3 Maitland Grossman 0
 St Peters Maitland 3 Dungog 0
 Lambton 8 St Phillips 0
 St Edwards Gosford 3 Terrigal 1
 Henry Kendall 2 Umina 1
 Berkeley Vale 4 Narara Valley 0
 Gorokan 3 Woy Woy 0

Bill Turner Trophy

Girls 15 Years

QUALIFYING ROUND:

Barrenjoey 5 St Lukes Grammar 1
 Kincumber 2 St Peters Tuggerah Lakes 0
 Macarthur Girls 3 Arthur Phillip 0
 Macquarie Fields 2 Bass 0
 Elizabeth Macarthur 6 Cecil Hills 1
 Cranebrook 4 Caroline Chisolm 1
 Camden Haven 2 Wauchope 1
 Narramine 4 Delroy 0

Round 1:

Gilston 2 Cheltenham Girls 1
 The Entrance 2 Henry Kendall 1
 Colyton 7 Emmaus College 0
 Bede Polding 1 Colo 0
 Quakers Hill 5 Grantham 0
 Menai 7 Heathcote 0
 Kirrawee 2 Blakehurst 0
 Lismore 4 Nimbin Central 1
 Richmond River 2 Casino 0
 Coffs Harbour 2 Woolgoolga 0
 Kempsey 7 Nambucca Heads 0
 Kooringal 6 Mt Erin Wagga 0
 Hillston Central 6 Wade 3

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2

Nalpantidis 75, 89.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 2

Vassallo 32, Bevincovski 52.

Friday night at Jack Edwards Reserve, South Oakleigh. Crowd: Approx. 450.



By Markian Jaworsky

Just seven rounds remaining, Oakleigh fighting against relegation, Gully desperate to put the Victorian Premier League championship away beyond all doubt, the two teams had everything to play for.

On one of the coldest nights in Melbourne this decade, Oakleigh hosted one of hottest games the VPL has seen this season.

Green Gully had come to Jack Edwards Reserve with only one thing in mind, three points. From the kick off Green Gully made their intentions clear, Zdravko Atanasovski was everywhere.

Bursting up and down the wing, Atanasovski was thrusting Gully into attack and sweeping up in the backline. His long range effort on fifteen minutes forced Oakleigh keeper, Makrigiannis to deflect for a corner.

Ten minutes later, Gully had another corner which Steve Camilleri headed wide from close range.

On the half hour Gully found themselves with a freekick 25 yards from goal. Of course, the fired up Atanasovski took the shot, curling and dipping over the wall, only Makrigiannis stood between the ball and Gully's first goal and he saved well.

Just two minutes later, Gully broke through. Brandon Vassallo dribbled straight through the middle, exposing an Oakleigh defense on the back foot, and drilled his long range effort into the back corner of the goal.

Green Gully had two more great chances to pull further ahead before halftime. Steve Camilleri setup Nick Papadopoulos who shot high and wide, and only Oakleigh's Felix Rosnan's last ditch tackle prevented Vassallo from what was a certain goal.

Oakleigh did look a little more enterprising in the second half, but Green Gully did not relent. Oakleigh's George Daoulos shot from an acute angle just after halftime that deflected onto the post and just out for a corner. Felix Rosnan headed the resulting corner just over the bar from close range.

Bill Nalpantidis setup Daoulos for another shot, which hit the side netting. But it was Green Gully that scored their second for the night, on 52 minutes, Sash Bevincovski beat the offside trap and coolly slotted the ball past Makrigiannis.

With 25 minutes remaining, one of the goals of the season. Nalpantidis took the ball just past the halfway line and like a stream train he darted towards the Green Gully goal, evading two challenges from the Gully defence, and as Gully keeper Robert Brian advanced Nalpantidis blasted the ball into the back of



Oakleigh Cannons' two goal hero Bill Nalpantidis

the net.

In the 75th minute, Papadopoulos crossed for Bevincovski, who volleyed first time onto the post. A chance, if taken that would have surely won the game for the visitors. That was the story of the night, Green Gully paying dearly for missed chances.

With just one minute of regulation time remaining, Oakleigh's Ike Alagiozidis ran into a one on one against Robert Brian, cut to the left but was brought down with the 'keeper lucky not to be sent off.

Nalpantidis stepped up for the spot kick and converted easily as the home crowd went into raptures Oakleigh Cannons had salvaged another crucial point in their battle against relegation.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS: Brian, Spiteri, Camilleri, Atanasovski, Georgiadis, Markovski, Vassallo, Sevin, Neceski, Papadopoulos, Bevincovski

OAKLEIGH CANNONS: Makrigiannis, Rosnan, Pagniello, Alagiozidis, Nalpantidis, Harbis, Pind, Aretis, Aridas, Sevastiadis, Daoulas

Yellows:

Oakleigh: Pagniello 52, Harbis 62, Pind 72
 Green Gully: Brian 89

Man of the Match:

3. NALPANTIDIS (OAKLEIGH CANNONS)
 2. Atanasovski (Green Gully)
 1. Bevincovski (Green Gully)

Referee: Robert Caminiti.

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Jolevski's Magic keeps Sharks at bay

ALTONA MAGIC 2

Own goal 25, Todorovski 70.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 2

Tsolakis 10, Tsaltas 57. Saturday evening at the Paisley Reserve, North Altona.



By Mark Fisher

Altona Magic hosted Port Melbourne on Saturday night, in what were very chilly conditions. Yet the travelling Sharks faithful warmed to an early goal from the boot of stalwart Peter Tsolakis, who volleyed in from close range after receiving a searching cross from John Pappas near the right flank.

Port Melbourne took the game to the Magic right from the word go, and courtesy of the efforts of Damon Collina in the centre, and Serdar Pir on the right flank, they maintained constant pressure on the home side during the first half. One key absence was Mustafa Mustafa, who missed training mid-week due to an ankle injury.

Altona were very lucky to peg a goal back half way through the first period, when Stiven Mrkela layed the ball off to

John Cvetanovski just inside of the right corner flag, and Cvetanovski took a hopeful long crack at goal. Richard Watson near the far post made a complete mess of what should have been an easy clearance, and only managed to steer the ball around his own keeper and in off the other post for an own goal.

George Jolevski eventually began to stamp his influence on the match, with his ability to hold the ball up in central midfield providing real nuisance value. Jolevski produced a good inside ball to unmarked striker Zoran Petrevski near the left by-line who tried to catch goalkeeper Tony Lyras off-guard with an acute stab at goal with his right boot. Lyras did enough to block the ball low-down.

The last flurry of the half occurred when Port midfielder Sam Poutakidis wound past Cvetanovski on the left and dribbled into the area, yet he was checked

by the Altona defence and went down in a heap. Match referee Jim Oularis saw nothing untoward in the minor challenge, and allowed play to continue with barely seconds left on the clock until the break.

Port Melbourne again shot away in the early stages of the second half, controlling the midfield with some good one touch football. Collina emerged into a gap along the inside left corridor, and snapped a quick shot that rebounded off a defender and into the path of Serdar Pir on the right and just short of the edge of the area.

Pir fired across goal towards the left post, and his shot met a clever deflection from the boot of team-mate Nick Tsaltas. The re-directed ball evaded keeper Darren McGrath and went low into the right side of the net. The Sharks regained the lead - temporarily.

Jolevski again inspired a come-back by Altona. He started to move towards the left flank to exploit available space, after Port coach Frank Arok had substituted adept wingback Serdar Pir. The pressure play down the left created plenty of opportunities during the last 25 minutes of action.

Ace Vasilevski also used the left flank to full effect - when he delivered a pin-point cross from near the left corner to the rising head of Zoran Todorovski near the penalty spot. Todorovski's powerful header flew past Lyras and high into the left half of the net. The score was again level at 2-2.

Port Melbourne looked more content after the equaliser to just hold the improving Altona out, and this they managed to do despite the odd shot on target from outside the area from both Joveski and Petrevski.

The draw was an accurate reflec-



Port Melbourne Sharks' Serdar Pir

tion of the efforts both sides made in order to counter their opponents' strengths. Altona can still take comfort in the fact that it has never looked overwhelmed at home at any stage this season.

ALTONA MAGIC: McGrath, Micevski, Jolevski, Cergovski (Vasilevski), Cvetanovski, Trifunov (Madarovski), Lisolajski, Petrevski, Todorovski (Markovski), Mrkela, Stojevski.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS: Lyras, Watson, Knezevic, Sonsini, Pir (Nicolic), Poutakidis, Tzirtis, Pappas, Collina (Vukosavljevic), Tsolakis (Dimas), Tsaltas.

Best Players:

3. JOLEVSKI (ALTONA)
2. Collina (Port Melbourne)
1. Pir (Port Melbourne)

Referee: Jim Oularis

VPL RESULTS

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 2

Vassallo B, Bevincovski.

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2

Nalpantidis B (2).

ALTONA MAGIC 2

Own goal, Todorovski Z.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 2

Tsaltas N, Tsolakis P.

ST ALBANS SAINTS 0

FAWKNER BLUES 4

Psarros P (3), Luci G.

BULLEEN ZEBRAS 3

Spink W, Gnjidic D, Caimakamis K.

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 0

RESERVES:

Green Gully 1	Oakleigh Cannons 1
Altona Magic 3	Port Melbourne 2
St Albans Saints 0	Fawkner Blues 2
Bulleen Zebras	Altona East (PP)

Played Monday:

Melbourne Raiders v Bentleigh Greens

Heidelberg United v Preston Lions

FIRST GRADE

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
16	9	5	2	30	13	32	
15	7	4	4	21	16	25	
16	7	4	5	24	21	25	
16	6	6	4	25	20	24	
16	7	3	6	20	24	24	
16	5	7	4	20	20	22	
16	4	7	5	19	17	19	
15	5	4	6	18	18	19	
15	5	4	6	18	18	19	
16	4	5	7	25	30	17	
16	3	7	6	25	34	16	
15	4	3	8	21	28	15	
15	3	5	7	18	25	14	

RESERVES

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
16	10	4	2	49	19	34	
16	8	3	5	35	32	27	
15	8	2	5	43	23	26	
16	6	5	5	37	40	23	
16	6	5	5	33	36	23	
15	6	4	5	45	31	22	
16	5	6	5	31	29	21	
15	5	4	6	24	27	19	
16	5	4	7	26	43	19	
15	4	6	5	33	33	18	
15	3	6	6	29	43	15	
15	1	3	11	16	45	6	

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

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ROUND SEVENTEEN

Friday 2 June

Port Melbourne Sharks v Oakleigh Cannons - SS Anderson Reserve 8.15(First Grade)/6.15 (Reserves)

Sunday 4 June

Green Gully v Melbourne Raiders - Green Gully Reserve 7.00(First Grade)/5.00 (Reserves)
 Bentleigh Greens v Bulleen Zebras - Kingston Heath SC 3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)
 Altona East v Heidelberg United - Paisley Reserve 3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)
 Preston Lions v St Albans Saints - B.T. Connor Reserve 3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)
 Fawkner Blues v Altona Magic - C.B. Smith Reserve 3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)

CRAZY JOHN'S VICTORIA RESULTS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1: Firsts: Rd 9: South Dandenong 3 (Grella D (2), Zekjna F) Richmond 2 (Kolar D, Aravilla A), Lalor United 1 (Slavenski B) Spring White Eagles 0 Sunshine Georgies 0 West. 2 (Goutzoulis A, Honore S) Western Suburbs 5 (Bacak B (2), Gavran T (2)) Mussel G) Doncaster Rovers 2 (Paliadellis P, Pongho A), Frankston Pines 1 (Lewis C) Essendon 3 (Di Vito R (2), Peel J), Westgate 2 (Kerans J, Maglovisk D) Yarraville Glory 0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1: Reserves: Rd 9: South Dandenong 3 Richmond 3, Lalor United 1 Spring White Eagles 3, Sunshine Georgies 1 Westvale 0, Western Suburbs 3 Doncaster Rovers 1, Frankston Pines 0 Essendon 4, Westgate 3 Yarraville Glory 1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW: Firsts: Rd 9: Wembee City 2 (Bos J, Schafone M) Melbourne City 2 (Romero V (2)), Northcote City 6 (Lenets G, Theofopoulos J, Gngorakis D, Babo A, Papadopoulos E, Senoz H) Altona City 2 (Jelincic J, Borg S), Moreland City 2 (Bisetto M, Marzen R) Geelong 3 (Rakoc C, Kules R, Bovevski N), Nth Geelong Warriors 2 (Deak A (2)) Diamond Valley Utd 2 (Gulino M, Drapier N), Whittlesea Stallions 1 (Stubbins P) Satellite City RovS 1 (Ilievski J), Fitzroy City 2 (Krasic R (2)) North Coburg United 1 (Uyanik A)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW: Reserves: Rd 9: Wembee City 2 Melbourne City 3, Northcote City 2 Altona City 0, Moreland City 3 Geelong 2, Nth Geelong Warriors 0 Diamond Valley Utd 4, Whittlesea Stallions 1 Satellite City RovS 1, Fitzroy City 2 North Coburg United 0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 SE: Firsts: Rd 9: Knox City 3 (Tidd M (2), Loughnane S) Kingston City 2 (Pfaltzgraff D, Pantelidis G), Old Scotch Waverley 1 (Rusmir A) Frankston Strikers 3 (Cochrane G, Wogan T, Donaghy J), South Springvale 3 (Lens C, Nesvara C, Ismailoglu M) Cranbourne Comets 2 (Campos F, McAuley M) Ringwood City 0 South Wantirna 1 (Veljovic N) Stornington City 3 (Tylikos M, Karayannikos J, Valavanis P) East Richmond 2 (Rontoyannis E, Constantinou J), Springvale City 4 (Ciccarelli S, Rosa A (2), Cacciotti E) Croydon City Arrows 1 (Inglese M)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 SE: Reserves: Rd 9: Knox City 1 Kingston City 1, Old Scotch Waverley 1 Frankston Strikers 1, South Springvale 0 Cranbourne Comets 0, Ringwood City 2 South Wantirna 0, Stornington City 4 East Richmond 2, Springvale City 3 Croydon City Arrows 1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 NW: Firsts: Rd 9: Keilor Park 0 Lalor 1 (Katovik O), Melton 3 (Jones S, Lister D, Rutherford G) Pascoe Vale 1 (Ristevski Z), Williamstown 1 (Lazarovic A) Bell Park 0, Corio 2 (Stosic M, Biscari I) North City Lions 1 (Romero C), Geelong Rangers 1 (White E) Sunbury United 1 (Tumaturi G), Laverton Park 1 (Carlos E) Croydon Park 2 (Osmanovic V, Radzevic A)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 NW: Reserves: Rd 9: Keilor Park 6 Lalor 0, Melton 5 Pascoe Vale 2, Williamstown 4 Bell Park 3 Corio 1 North City Lions 2, Geelong Rangers 2 Sunbury United 6, Laverton Park 3 Croydon Park 0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 SE: Firsts: Rd 9: Lyndale United 6 (Mocole S (2), Hanna C, Hanna P, Tidd C, Filipovic P) Seaford United 1 (Dipetta C) Mooroolbark 0 Clifton Hill United 4 (Tountas G, Hinoporus G (3)) Banyule City 2 (Ivanusic J (2)) Endeavour United 1 (Machado B), Nunawading City 1 (Zatsnovska T) Morwell Pegasus 1 (Milani C), Sandringham City 0 Chelsea 0, Keysborough 2 (Ither T, Savinmoutou D) Langwarrin 3 (Kilner G (2), Parton S)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 SE: Reserves: Rd 9: Lyndale United 3 Seaford United 1, Mooroolbark 2 Clifton Hill United 1, Banyule City 3 Endeavour United 3, Nunawading City 0 Morwell Pegasus 3, Sandringham City 5 Chelsea 0, Keysborough 1 Langwarrin 1

2000 PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1: Firsts: Rd 9: Doveton 1 (Lee D) Hoppers Crossing 1 (Smurthwaite M) Park PP Clayton, Templestowe Eagles 1 (Jacoune P) Nth Sunshine Eagles 2 (Huseyn D, Ristevski K) Elwood City 2 (Robinson K, Nesi D) Riversdale 3 (Kourlis A (2), Kyriakou A), Springvale Condors 1 (Queros A) Brunswick City 7 (Vouloumanos C, Kyriopoulos N (3), Nicopoulos S (3)) Sydenham Park 3 (Pazeski S, Lazaridis T, Dilevska S) Mitcham United 0

2000 PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1: Reserves: Rd 9: Doveton 5 Hoppers Crossing 0, Monbulk 0 Clayton 4, Templestowe Eagles 2 Nth Sunshine Eagles 1 Elwood City 2 Riversdale 3 Springvale Condors 2 Brunswick City 7, Sydenham Park 4 Mitcham United 2

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 N/W: Firsts: Rd 9: Melbourne University 4 (Watson A (3), Kotsos A) Whittlesea United 1 (Foran S), Mill Park 0 Glenroy 3, Majovic R, Jelicic D, Bishko I, Moreland United 2 (Yuall N, Ismaili H) Darebin United 2 Dimopoulos G, Pouliotras T), Somerton City 1 (Yaan T) Broadmeadows United 0, South Yarra 0 Ballarat 2 (Lai T (2)), Keon Park 3 (Rousalis T (2), Angelidis A) Uni Of Melbourne 1 Brown A

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 N/W: Reserves: Rd 9: Melbourne University 1 Whittlesea United 3, Mill Park 2 Glenroy 0, Moreland United 0 Darebin United 7, Somerton City 1 Broadmeadows United 6, South Yarra 1 Ballarat 5, Keon Park 0 Uni Of Melbourne 2

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 S/E: Firsts: Rd 9: North Caulfield 3 (Rabinowitz G, Musman A, Serostan B) Dandenong Inter 2 (Bonnat C, Rojas A), Dingley City 4 (Desovali M (4)) Dandenong 1 (Simunic D), Newborough/Yallourn 3 (Stanbury M, Hodkinson D, Orr G) Brandon Park 0, Noble Park United 0 Braeside United 1 (Florido J), Waverley Wanderers 4 (Sedarevic M (2), Gameras T, Nicovski R) Ashburton 1 (Clemson J), South Caulfield 3 (Salatas J (2), Nickas P) Heatherton United 5 (Sehavic M, Ugark S (2), Hadzovic E, Velic F)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 S/E: Reserves: Rd 9: North Caulfield 5 Dandenong Inter 0, Dingley City 2 Dandenong 3, Newborough/Yallourn 9 Brandon Park 1, Noble Park United 1 Braeside United 1, Waverley Wanderers 1 Ashburton 1, South Caulfield 1 Heatherton United 1

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 N/W: Firsts: Rd 9: Preston South 2 (Kotsos Z, Paunkoski T) Western Eagles 4 (Golba G, Mostowski A (2), Rabenda L), New South Port Utd 3 (Quiroga J, Mustafa A, Bajradzki H) Brimbank City 0, Ascot Vale 0 Watsonia Heights 2 (Popovski A), Flemington Falcons 1 (Torcaso A) Brimbank 1 (Di Filippo C), Northern United 4 (Manc M, Jokanovic S, Nedelkov R (2)) West Preston 0, Keilor United 4 (Dilizio R (3), Murador I) Meadow Park 2 (Zuccarello S, Urquhart D)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 N/W: Reserves: Rd 9: Preston South 2 Western Eagles 2, New South Port Utd 5 Brimbank City 1, Ascot Vale 2 Watsonia Heights 3, Flemington Falcons 3 Brimbank 2, Northern United 10 West Preston 0, Keilor United 3 Meadow Park 1

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 S/E: Firsts: Rd 9: Rowville Eagles PP Parkmore, Collingwood City 4 (Alevizos D (3), Tsalkidis S) La Trobe University 2 (Papageorgiou K (2)), Old Camberwell Gramm 1 (Shewen M) Endeavour Hills 3 (Fries A, Mothoo N (2)), Monash University 1 (Apostolopoulos P) Old Melbourne 0, Benwick Kings 1 (Adamovic D) Beaumaris 2 (Gilder C, Carey E), Noble Park 2 (Rustov T, Lembovski L) Thornbury United 1 (Scarsella L)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 S/E: Reserves: Rd 9: Rowville Eagles PP Parkmore, Collingwood City 1 La Trobe University 1, Old Camberwell Gramm 2 Endeavour Hills 1, Monash University 1 Old Melbourne 0, Benwick Kings 1 Beaumaris 2, Noble Park PP Thornbury United

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SOUTH DANDENONG	9	8	0	1	33	10	24
WESTVALE	9	6	3	0	28	11	21
ESSENDON	9	5	1	2	17	11	19
LALOR UNITED	9	6	1	2	15	9	19
WESTERN SUBURBS	9	5	1	3	16	13	16
FRANKSTON PINES	9	4	1	4	17	18	13
YARRAVILLE GLORY	9	3	1	5	14	21	10
RICHMOND	9	3	1	5	10	18	10
DONCASTER ROVERS	9	2	2	5	17	22	8
SPRINGVALE W. EAGLES	9	0	3	6	5	15	3
SUNSHINE GEORGIES	9	2	0	7	9	22	3
WESTGATE	9	1	0	8	9	24	3

RESERVES

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SOUTH DANDENONG	9	6	2	1	20	10	20
ESSENDON	9	6	0	3	27	14	18
RICHMOND	9	5	3	1	23	13	18
FRANKSTON PINES	9	5	2	2	21	11	17
WESTGATE	9	5	1	3	17	12	16
SUNSHINE GEORGIES	9	6	0	3	17	15	15
DONCASTER ROVERS	9	4	2	3	17	12	14
YARRAVILLE GLORY	9	3	1	5	17	26	10
WESTERN SUBURBS	9	3	0	8	17	23	9
WESTVALE	9	2	1	6	8	15	7
SPRINGVALE W. EAGLES	9	2	1	6	12	26	7
LALOR UNITED	9	0	1	8	4	23	1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FITZROY CITY	9	8	1	0	31	6	25
NTH COBURG UNITED	9	7	0	2	15	9	21
WHITTLESEA STALLIONS	9	6	2	1	18	12	20
SATELLITE CITY ROVERS	9	5	4	0	20	5	19
GEELONG	9	4	3	2	14	9	15
DAMOND VALLEY UNITED	9	3	3	3	11	11	12
NORTHCOTE CITY	9	2	3	4	15	15	9
MORELAND CITY	9	3	0	6	15	24	9
NORTH GEELONG WARR.	9	2	2	5	19	18	8
MELBOURNE CITY	9	1	3	5	10	21	6
WERRIBEE CITY	9	1	3	5	15	27	3
ALTONA CITY	9	0	0	9	10	36	-3

RESERVES

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SATELLITE CITY ROVERS	9	8	1	0	32	9	25
DIAMOND VALLEY UNITED	9	7	1	1	34	11	22
FITZROY CITY	9	6	2	1	25	12	20
WHITTLESEA STALLIONS	9	6	1	2	33	10	19
NORTHCOTE CITY	9	6	1	2	22	14	19
NORTH COBURG UNITED	9	4	0	5	32	20	12
MORELAND CITY	9	4	0	5	21	20	12
GEELONG	9	2	1	6	13	24	7
MELBOURNE CITY	9	2	1	6	16	29	7
NORTH GEELONG WARR.	9	1	2	6	11	38	5
WERRIBEE CITY	9	1	1	7	7	30	1
ALTONA CITY	9	1	1	7	18	47	1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 S/E:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
KNOX CITY	8	6	2	0	19	6	20
FRANKSTON STRIKERS	9	5	4	0	24	12	19
CRANBOURNE COMETS	9	5	2	2	23	12	17
KINGSTON CITY	9	5	1	3	19	11	

Snowy round in ACT: Gungahlin win 5-1

The conditions were the main talking point during an interesting day of soccer last Sunday in Canberra. Snow was falling for most of all the games and then bright sunshine for the rest.

Conditions were so dangerous in the Belconnen area that one game had to be called off.

Even so, from the four remaining matches, Gungahlin Juventus extended their lead to 8 points over Monaro who returned to second place. Canberra Deakin moved up into fourth just ahead of Tuggeranong United on goal difference.

Canberra Deakin overcame a solid

performance from the Weston Creek Royals side to jump into the top four with a 4-2 win at Woden Park. The win now puts them in fourth spot, ahead of Tuggeranong United on goal difference writes Nathan Long.

In a game that started with heavy snow and a biting wind, the young Weston Creek side played enterprising football and scored the game's first goal in the 6th minute.

Simon Lloyd made a great weaving run up, and across-field. His shot at goal was deflected by Jovan Naumovski, but Ben Pipe cleaned up and put the scraps away for a 1-0 lead.

The snow was making the ground heavy and holding the ball up.

Thus, the timing on many passes from players in both teams was off. Weston Creek had more chances and used their possession better through most of the first half.

Twenty minutes later, Deakin hit back of a rebound off Royals keeper Michael Thomsen. Following some good lead-up work by Tommy Bajurin and David Arranz, Vince Bodo's shot was deflected and Paul Ivanic slotted the ball past Thomsen to tie the game 1-1.

In the 43rd minute Sam Mehr pounced on another deflected ball to put Weston Creek up 2-1. Mehr dribbled towards the box and Naumovski met his first shot, but spilt it. A mad scramble

ensued, the result being Mehr's goal.

Deakin equalized two minutes later. Vince Bodo received a pass from Paul Gagetti about 15 metres out to the left of goals. From a 45-degree angle, Bodo curled a good, low shot just inside the near post.

During halftime, the snow stopped, and the sun came out, yet it was still so cold it was almost criminal. The surface was now slick, which meant the speed of the ball along the ground went from slow crawl to a fast skid.

Deakin turned the tide and began to gain the upper hand through the first 20 minutes of the second half.

They capitalized in the 77th minute. John Markezic struck a superb cross from the back line to Michael Barac who headed it past Thomsen for a 3-2 Deakin lead.

In the 82nd minute Ivanic scored his second after just squeezing a chip from 30 metres out under the cross bar. The ball looked as though it would sail over the bar, so it surprised everyone at the ground when it ended up in the back of the net.

The game was soured in the 84th minute when Deakin's David Arranz was red-carded for a nasty looking two-footed knee-high tackle on a Royals midfielder.

Weston Creek coach Robbie Graham was pleased with the effort of his players, but thought they should have gotten a better result.

"I thought 4-2 was a blown out score line. It was an even game and I think we deserved a draw from it," he said.

Although happy with the win, Deakin coach Zoran Glavnic wasn't enamoured with the way Deakin played in the first half and his perception of a 'slow start.'

"I talked to the boys about that at the

beginning. Obviously they didn't take any notice...but I'm happy with a 4-2 result," he said.

At Kambah Oval number 2, Gungahlin Juventus scored all six goals in a 5-1 win over third placed Tuggeranong United. Although Tuggeranong had a number of chances, Juventus played solid throughout the day and deserved all the points.

Both Steve Lazzari and Martin Lazzari grabbed doubles with Josh Whittington scoring the other two, unfortunately one of them into his own net.

Riverside Stadium was the setting for second v fourth and it was the latter, Monaro, who scored an impressive 2-1 win over Belconnen United controlling the game for the first two-thirds.

Belconnen came back after the second goal for Monaro was scored but were unable to grab a share of the points.

John Rakic added to his tally with the first goal of the match in the first half and Danny Macor netted the second for Monaro.

Daniel Camara was able to get one back for Belconnen but Monaro held on for the win thus moving them back into second spot.

A late strike by Peter Hader secured all the points for Capital City Suns in their 1-0 victory over Canberra Olympic at Majura Oval.

The game looked all towards a scoreless draw before Hader's strike.

Substitute Adam Williams set up Hader in the 76th minute and the striker was able to flick the ball over the Cosmos custodian, Angelo Konstantinou.

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
Gungahlin Juventus	9	8	1	0	1	28	8	26
Monaro	8	6	0	2	0	24	15	18
Belconnen United	9	5	1	3	1	29	11	17
Canberra Deakin	9	5	1	3	1	22	16	17
Tuggeranong Utd	9	5	1	3	1	23	18	17
Canberra Olympic	9	3	2	4	2	15	20	13
Capital City Suns	8	3	1	4	1	18	19	11
Burns	8	2	0	6	0	12	23	6
UCU Pumas	7	1	0	6	0	5	18	3
Weston Creek Royals	8	0	1	7	1	7	33	2

PREMIER LEAGUE 1ST GRADE: Monaro 2 Belconnen United 1, Weston Creek Royals 2 Canberra Deakin 4, Tuggeranong United 1 Gungahlin Juventus 5, Canberra Olympic 0 Capital City Suns 1

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 23S: Weston Creek Royals 1 Canberra Deakin 6, Tuggeranong United 0 Gungahlin Juventus 1, Canberra Olympic 1 Capital City Suns 0, UCU Pumas 5 Burns FC 2

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 19S: Weston Creek Royals 4 Canberra Deakin 2, Tuggeranong United 2 Gungahlin Juventus 3, Canberra Olympic 0 Capital City Suns 8, UCU Pumas 4 Burns FC 0

Tassie's top three moving clear of pack

By Walter Pless

The top three teams in Tasmania's Wrest Point League all won on the weekend and have begun to open up a gap between themselves and the rest of the pack.

League-leaders New Town Eagles thrashed third-last (seventh placed) Clarence United 6-0 at home at Clare Street on Saturday after leading 4-0 at the break through an early headed goal by the tall, powerful and robust Julian Proud, last season's Vic Tuting Silver Medal winner, and a hat-trick by the speedy midfielder Luke De Vries.

De Vries and star midfielder Colin Shepherd wrapped up the three points by adding a goal apiece in the second half.

The victory kept Eagles a point ahead of second-placed Glenorchy Knights and third-ranked (on goal-difference) Hobart Olympic.

The Knights easily overcame sixth-placed Metro-Clairemont 5-1 away at North Chigwell, striker Brendan Lakoseljac netting four goals and setting up the Knights' remaining goal for Brett Pullen.

Lakoseljac had put the visitors ahead in the 32nd minute, sweeping home Nick Anis's cross from the right, which had been helped on by Metro defender Greg Ashwood, but only after one of Metro's four Scottish imports, striker Steve Pettit, had sounded a wake-up call by smacking a 35-metre effort against a post six minutes earlier.

Pettit, signed from Queen of the South in Scotland, played superbly for the

home side and showed just why Knights coach Ken Morton has shown keen interest in him. Pettit played a lone role in attack and again showed skill on the ball, bravery and aggression and a keen eye for goal.

It was Pettit who equalised in the 36th minute, beating one defender through sheer pace and rounding goalkeeper Leon Munro before slotting the ball home from an angle. A minute earlier, he had been denied an almost certain goal. After beating two defenders, the second of whom fouled him, his physical power put him through with a clear run at goal, only for referee Paul Jones to bring play back by blowing his whistle and awarding Metro a free-kick.

Six minutes before the interval, Lakoseljac restored the Knights' lead from a penalty, awarded after Ashwood had tripped Pullen, although the Knights' striker made a meal of it by falling dramatically. It was certainly a foul, but it seemed seconds had passed before Pullen decided to go down.

Pullen made it 3-1 from Lakoseljac's pass in the 49th minute before Pettit should have scored another for Metro in the 57th minute. The striker used his intelligence and speed to prise open the Knights' defence, but, finding himself with only Munro to beat, allowed the keeper to block the shot with his legs.

Lakoseljac completed the demolition with his third and fourth goals in the 74th and 89th minutes, respectively.

Hobart Olympic had briefly topped the table after beating fifth-ranked Kingborough Lions United 3-1 on Friday

night at KGV Soccer Park, but they dropped back to third as a result of Saturday's games.

Kingborough led 1-0 at half-time through an excellent goal by Steve Chetcuti, the former Sunshine George Cross, Polonia and Green Gully player signed this season from Doncaster, but Olympic were a side transformed in the second half and three excellent build-ups culminated in splendid goals for Raymond Benson, who found the net twice, and Queenslander Trevor Carson.

On Sunday, reigning champion and fourth-placed University grabbed a last-minute goal to draw 2-2 with second-last visitors Hobart Zebras at a cold, wet and windswept Olinda Grove.

John McCarthy fired University ahead from the penalty spot in the 13th minute, but two goals by Michael Lapolla, the first from a penalty on the half-hour and the second from a long-range chip from wide on the left in the 59th minute, gave the Zebras the lead.

With the Zebras looking certain to grab only their second league win of the season, and the second in a row, Michael MacDonald made the most of Myles Harry's pass to score in the final minute and salvage a precious point for University.

The score might have been higher but for some excellent goalkeeping by University's Martin Wells and the Zebras' Frank Mainella. Wells made two superb reflex saves in quick succession and from close range against Lapolla and Mark Falzon in the first half, while Mainella did exactly the same in the

second against MacDonald and Mark Rapley.

Bottom-side South Hobart had the bye, but it could hardly have been a relaxing weekend for their players as they saw their situation deteriorate ever so slightly but surely.

WREST POINT LEAGUE

University 2
(M. MacDonald J. McCarthy)

Hobart Zebras 2
(M. Lapolla 2)

Glenorchy Knights 5
(B. Lakoseljac 4 B. Pullen)

D Metro Claremont 1
(S. Pettit)

New Town Eagles 6
(J. Proud L. De Vries 4 C. Shepherd)

Clarence United 0

Hobart City 3
(R. Benson 2 T. Carson)

Kingborough Lions 1
(S. Chetcuti)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	7	5	1	1	33	12	16
Glenorchy Knights	6	5	0	1	27	8	15
Hobart Olympic	6	5	0	1	12	7	15
University	6	3	2	1	10	9	11
Kingborough Lions	6	2	0	4	4	9	6
Metro Claremont	7	2	0	5	12	26	6
Hobart Zebras	6	1	2	3	12	21	5
Clarence United	6	1	1	4	12	26	4
South Hobart	6	1	0	5	8	12	3

Information provided by - Soccer Tasmania
Web Site <http://www.soccertas.org.au/>



NSL Finals stats with Greg Blake



Stuart Young: the Englishman was battered and bruised after the Glory game but you can count on him when the going gets tough.



Scott Chipperfield: after going so close in Perth he will be itching to score in front of his own fans.

PRELIMINARY FINAL RECORD SCORE:
Marconi Stallions 4 - Adelaide City 1 (1995/96)

PRELIMINARY FINAL RECORD CROWD:
11,507 for Adelaide City v South Melbourne at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide (1990/91)

PRELIMINARY FINAL HIGHEST SINGLE GAME AGGREGATE SCORE:
8 goals: Preston 4 - South Melbourne 4 (1985 Southern Division)

PRELIMINARY FINAL BEST GOALSCORING PERFORMANCE:
Stuart Stevenson (3 goals for Heidelberg United v Melbourne Knights in 1984)
Charlie Egan (3 goals for South Melbourne v Preston in 1985)
Mark Viduka (3 goals for Melbourne Knights v South Melbourne in 1994/95)

MOST PRELIMINARY FINALS:
South Melbourne (7)

PRELIMINARY FINAL WINNERS TO TAKE TITLE:
Marconi Stallions (1988)
Sydney Olympic (1989/90)
South Melbourne (1990/91)
Adelaide City (1991/92)
Adelaide City (1993/94)
Melbourne Knights (1994/95)

PRELIMINARY FINAL RESULTS DOWN THE YEARS:
(All matches in the home city of first-named clubs)

1984 - (5th Div) Heidelberg Utd 3 - Melbourne Knights 1



Steve Horvat: the recalled Socceroo is in great form leading into this weekend.



Dave McPherson: his experience and strength will be vital for Carlton away to Wolves.



June 11: Perth Glory v ...



MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

W/E 21 May 2000

W/E 28 May 2000

2

Wollongong Wolves 1

Perth Glory 2

1

Perth Glory 0

Wollongong Wolves 0

PRELIMINARY FINAL

W/E 4 June 2000

Wollongong Wolves

GRAND FINAL

W/E 11 June 2000

PERTH GLORY

V

Winner of Preliminary Final

ELIMINATION FINALS

W/E 14 May 2000

W/E 21 May 2000

6 Marconi 0

Carlton 2

3 Carlton 1

Marconi Stallions 0

5 Sydney Olympic 4

Adelaide City Force 1

4 Adelaide Force 1

Sydney Olympic 2

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

Carlton 2

V

Sydney Olympic 1

V

Carlton



SUNDAY 4 JUNE 5.00PM
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

WOLLONGONG WOLVES



V **CARLTON**



1 Les Pogliacomi
2 George Souris
3 Alvin Ceccoli
4 Robert Stanton
5 David Cervinski
6 Matt Horsley
7 Paul Reid
10 Stuart Young
11 Scott Chipperfield
(right)
12 Neil Harlock
13 Noel Spencer
14 Saso Petrovski
15 David Huxley
16 Peter Lahanas
17 Esala Masi
18 Paul O'Grady
19 Paul Dimech
20 Daniel Beltrame
21 Mark Robertson
22 Ben Blake
23 Dino Mennillo



1 Dean Anastasiadis
2 Dave McPherson
3 Craig Deans
4 Simon Colosimo
5 Sean Douglas
6 Andrew Marth (right)
7 Stuart Slater
8 Mark Atkinson
9 Alex Moreira
10 Lubo Lapsansky
11 Archie Thompson
12 Mike Conroy
13 Steve Martin
14 John Markovski
15 Con Anthopoulos
16 David Terminello
17 Joe Tricarico
21 Andrew Packer
22 Angelo Motsiopoulos
23 Colin Azzopardi
24 Joshua Kennedy
25 Daniel Vasilevski
26 Steve Horvat



Venue: Brandon Park
Sunday 4 June 4.00PM

Head-to-Head:

6

Wolves:

4

Carlton:

2

Draws:

0

Last Week:

Wolves 2-0 away loss to Glory.
Carlton 2-1 home win over Olympic.



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ROUND ONE - CANBERRA Wed 31 May, AIS Athletics Arena 2pm Canada v New Zealand • Bruce Stadium 5pm USA v China, 7.30pm Australia v Japan
ROUND TWO - SYDNEY Fri 2 June, Sydney Football Stadium 3pm Japan v New Zealand • 5.30pm USA v Canada • 8.00pm Australia v China
ROUND THREE - CAMPBELLTOWN Sun 4 June, Campbelltown Sports Stadium 12 noon Japan v China • 2.30pm USA v New Zealand • 5pm Australia v Canada
ROUND FOUR - NEWCASTLE Wed 7 June, Hunter Athletics Centre 3pm Australia v NZ • Thurs 8 June Breakers Stadium 3.30 China v Canada • 5pm USA v Japan
ROUND FIVE - NEWCASTLE Sat 10 June, Hunter Athletics Centre 12 noon Canada v Japan • 2.30pm China v NZ • Sun 11 June Breakers Stadium 2.30pm Australia v USA

SFS this Friday
Matildas v China

plus USA in early game